SENIOR SECTION INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THE ENTERPRISE

Calendar 11
Church 9
Classified 10
Family Album 5
Obituaries 8
Sports 6
Viewpoints 4

Vol. 150 No. 24 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026 USPS 523-500 $1.50

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE SINCE 1876 | Dedicated to serving the communities of Patrick County

Transfer station tipping fee to increase July 1

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors approved a 70-cent increase in the Transfer Station tipping fee during its June 8 meeting.

Effective July 1, the disposal rate will increase from $69.25 to $69.95 per ton, an increase of about 1 percent.

Transfer Station Manager Scottie Hylton said the increase is intended to offset anticipated future costs associated with the station's disposal and transportation contract.

"We recommend increasing the current disposal rate from $69.25 per ton to $69.95 per ton, representing an increase of approximately one percent, or 0.70. This modest adjustment is a proactive measure to maintain the financial stability of the Transfer Station operations while preparing for expected contractual increases in disposal and transportation costs in the future," he said.

Implementing the increase now, Hylton said, will help minimize the need for larger rate hikes later while ensuring reliable service without significantly affecting customers.

(See Transfer p. 3)



The Patrick County Board of Supervisors presents the June Patrick County Partner Award to Larry and Margaret Vernon.

Supervisors adopt new county financial policies

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors approved a set of financial policies presented by Davenport & Company, LLC during its June 8 meeting.

Davenport Vice President Austin Sacks said the policies are designed to help the county maintain its strong financial position after several years of improving its fiscal health.

Sacks said the county's unassigned fund balance, or reserves, has steadily increased over the past five years. More than a decade ago, however, the county faced annual deficits and relied on its reserves to cover expenses.

"The county had more expenditures than revenues, and actually in 2018-2019, the county had to do what's called a Revenue Anticipation Note. It's a short-term borrowing that must be repaid by the end of the fiscal year. What that really does is give the county enough cash on hand so that it can offer services, make its operational payments ahead of revenue influxes, those mostly being property taxes," he said.

(See Supervisors p. 3)



Judy Lacks, chair of the Patrick County Senior Citizens Group, said the monthly meetings give seniors an opportunity to enjoy food, fellowship and live music.

Monthly meetings, luncheons bring seniors together

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group gives older adults an opportunity to enjoy fellowship, food and entertainment through its monthly luncheons.

Planning Committee Chair and Treasurer Judy Lacks said the group was founded in 2012 after Louise Goard, whom Lacks calls "the mother of the senior citizen group," approached former Recreation Director Clyde Crissman with an idea.

"Because the Recreation Department did so many things for our youth, she pitched him the idea of these monthly meetings where we have entertainment, we would do door prizes, we would have food, we would have fellowship. It has existed, except for the three years we did not meet because of COVID," she said.

After retiring in 2017, Lacks said Goard asked her to join the group's steering committee.

"She made me promise that I would keep this going, and I'm trying to live up to that promise to her," she said.

The group meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Meetings begin at 11 a.m. and typically conclude by 1:30 p.m.

In addition to providing an opportunity for seniors to socialize, Lacks said Blue Ridge Therapy Connection offers free blood pressure checks during each luncheon.

"Our mission is to serve our seniors because they have served us as citizens," she said.

Volunteer musicians provide the entertainment each month, Lacks said.

"They do this out of the goodness of their heart to share back with the seniors, and we're just so appreciative," she said.

Meals vary from month to month. Some luncheons are potluck-style, while community orga-

(See Monthly p. 3)

Special prosecutor declines charges against former Patrick administrator

By Taylor Boyd

No criminal charges will be filed against former Patrick County Administrator Beth Simms regarding allegations that she violated state law.

In a June 9 opinion letter to Patrick County Commonwealth's Attorney Dayna Bobbitt, Special Prosecutor and Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney Eric Branscom said there is insufficient evidence to support criminal charges against Simms.

In his opinion letter, Branscom wrote that "there is insufficient evidence to support criminal charges against Ms. Sims (sic) relating to the allegations contained in the complaint. The investigation did not produce evidence establishing probable cause that Ms. Sims (sic) violated Virginia Code … relating to illegal voting or committed any related criminal offense."

Branscom wrote that allegations were made by then-Electoral Board member Ed Pool that Simms illegally voted in Patrick County during the June and November 2025 elections while allegedly residing in Franklin County.

"It was further alleged that she falsified information on voter registration documents by representing herself as a resident of Patrick County and therefore eligible to vote there, when it was claimed that she was actually residing in Franklin County. Additional related misdemeanor allegations were also referenced," the letter states.

The allegations were presented in a multipage document prepared by Pool. Branscom wrote that Pool's document claims to apply various provisions of Virginia election law to the evidence presented.

"While the document repeatedly referenced multiple alleged violations, a careful review demonstrates that the underlying evidence relied upon was largely the same throughout and was simply characterized in different ways as applied to different alleged offenses," the letter states.

Branscom wrote that the primary evidence supporting the allegations consisted of documentation showing that Simms and her husband, David Kyle Smith, were parties to a mortgage transaction involving Franklin County property in December 2024.

Both Simms and Smith were identified jointly as borrowers and purchasers on the mortgage documents.

"Importantly, the terminology utilized within

(See Prosecutor p. 4)

Smith family benefit set for Saturday

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group, LLC will host a benefit for Sally and James Smith on Saturday, June 20, at the Hooker Building in Stuart.

The event will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. and will feature entertainment by Southern Prophets and barbecue plates. The plates cost $20 each and include barbecue, side dishes and dessert.

Alzheimer's Group President Debbie Tatum said proceeds from the benefit will be used to hire caregivers for the Smiths.

"For the past two years, they have alternated with one illness after another. We want to return their efforts to give to those in need," Tatum said in a Facebook post.

Noting that Sally Smith helped start the Alzheimer's Group more than two decades ago, Tatum said she has been a major part of the community.

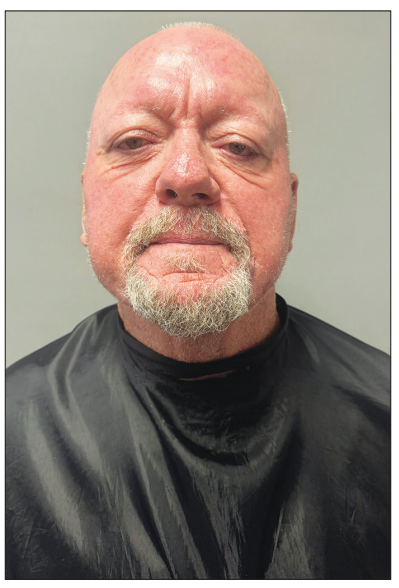
"Sally is so community-oriented, and, of course, she dragged Jim along with her. I don't know anyone else who is such an inspiration to people," Tatum said.

Patrick Springs man held without bond after standoff

The investigation continues into a shooting incident that led to an hourslong standoff and the arrest of a Patrick Springs man on multiple weapons charges last week, according to the Patrick County Sheriff's Office.

Curtis Harold McBride, 72, of 1032 Mountain View Loop, was arrested at 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9, after an alleged hours long standoff, according to authorities.

The incident began at 3:31 a.m., when a shots fired call was reported near McBride's home. Deputies arrived and allegedly determined that two different homes located across the road from McBride's residence had been shot in to. Both homes were occupied at the time, and one of the shots was alleged to have struck close to where a three year old child was sleeping.



Curtis Harold McBride

During the investigation, deputies developed probable cause to obtain a search warrant for McBride's residence. Multiple attempts were made to contact McBride, however he allegedly refused to come to the door.

Members of the sheriff's office tactical team were summoned, along with an armored vehicle from the Henry County Sheriff's Office. Additional attempts were made to call out McBride, however authorities allege he still refused to comply.

At 11:01 a.m., the armored vehicle breeched the front door

(See Patrick p. 3)

Tourism Talks

Hi Patrick,

I hope all has been well. Tourism visitation is off to a great start, with new faces in our community enjoying all of the festivities that the county has offered. Music has been one of the biggest draws. Starting with our Gospel Music Fest that occurred during Memorial Day, which was a huge success again. Just over the border in Henry County, they wrapped up Rooster Walk during Memorial Day as well. The First Fridays Summer Jam series has kicked off, and they have had two great shows. The Beach Music Festival was held this weekend, and they had an amazing event with the weather keeping the theme, HOT Fun in the Summertime. Yes, it was hot, very hot! The Dehart Park Pool is open for you to "find yourself there" to cool off during this weather. So, so much to talk about and do!

As our nation prepares to celebrate Independence Day, I want to personally invite residents and visitors alike to join us for Patrick County's VA250 Weeklong Celebration of Independence. This special series of events honors our Revolutionary War heritage, our local heroes, and the community spirit that makes Patrick County such a remarkable place to visit and call home.

We will have a pre-celebration this week at the Reynolds Homestead, celebrating Juneteenth and a week-long celebration beginning June 29. The celebration begins at William Letcher's Gravesite in Ararat. Visitors can experience Revolutionary War camps and displays, cannon firing demonstrations, historical lectures, and a fireworks display that will help kick off an exciting week (Fireworks are weather permitting).

On June 30, the Reynolds Homestead will present "Men at War," highlighting the military service and sacrifices of those connected to the Reynolds family and Homestead. July 1 brings a fascinating presentation at the John D. Hooker Building in Stuart, exploring the history of the Eliphaz Shelton family and their contributions to our region.

The excitement continues on July 3 with activities across the county. The Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department will host a Cruise-In, crafts, music, patriotic contests, and fireworks. The Stuart Farmers' Market welcomes visitors for the First Friday Summer Jam featuring Slick Jr. and the Reactors, while Fairy Stone State Park offers an evening of live bluegrass music with the Kitchen Pickers.

On Independence Day, July 4, Patrick County will be filled with opportunities to celebrate. The Patrick County Historical Society will dedicate a monument honoring local heroes of the American Revolution beginning at 10 a.m. The Vesta Community Center hosts an Old Time and Bluegrass Music Competition and a Quilts of Valor presentation honoring veterans. DeHart Park will feature pool games, family entertainment, and fireworks.

At 2 p.m., residents throughout the county are encouraged to participate in a countywide ringing of bells in recognition of our nation's



founding. Also enjoy a unique "Red, White, and Canoe" paddling event on Fairy Stone Lake.

Families will also enjoy a countywide scavenger hunt from June 29 through July 4. Five patriotic rubber ducks will be hidden throughout Patrick County. Find one and bring it to the Visitor Center to receive a free commemorative T-shirt.

These events showcase the rich history, scenic beauty, and welcoming communities that make Patrick County a premier destination in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. Whether you're interested in history, music, outdoor recreation, or family fun, there is something for everyone during this weeklong celebration.

For updates and additional information, follow the Friends of Patrick County Tourism Facebook page, our website: https://visitpatrickcounty.org/, or contact the Patrick County Visitor Center at 276-693-2005, which will have all of the latest information on upcoming events.

Once again, come find yourself in Patrick County for a celebration of our history, our home, our music, our families, and the history that has made us. God Bless the United States of America, In God we Trust!!

All my best,

James Houchins

jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us

Director of Economic Development and Tourism

Chamber Chat for May

By Rebecca Adcock

The chamber has been working diligently behind the scenes this Spring helping to assist our local businesses. We are in the planning stages for networking and educational events for the second half of the year.

We have also been active at events such as speaking and celebrating Walmart of Stuart's 20th year anniversary, the Regional Business After Hours in Axton at the end of April, and several partner meetings regarding the announcement of a new operator for Mabry Mill. We are very excited to see the return of food service at the mill next year. In the meantime, the grounds are open for walking and enjoyment. Milepost Music, sponsored by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, will be on site the first and third Sundays of June through September to bring some mountain music back to the site. So, stop in at the businesses in Meadows of Dan to pick up supplies and head over to enjoy the music.

The chamber hosted professional headshots the first part of May. Additionally, we presented a program about the chamber at Stuart Rotary and received donations for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.



Summer will not slow down for the county as there are several events happening. We encourage everyone to check out the chamber's website at www.patrickchamber.com for a listing of events. Great programming all summer for the kids with Patrick & Henry Community College summer STEM camp, Reynolds Homestead camp, DeHart Park Pool, Patrick County Library programs, Fairy Stone State Park wildlife programs, Healthy Kids programs at Blue Ridge and Stuart Elementary Schools, and "Movies in the Park" scheduled at various park locations throughout the county, June through August, 2026. So, please get out and enjoy Patrick County.

Welcome and help support these new businesses - Thomas Heating and Air, LLC and DRK Enterprises.

Adcock is the executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.

Public information meeting set for Vesta project

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in conjunction with design-build contractor Triton Construction, Inc. will hold a "Pardon Our Dust" public information meeting on Tuesday, June 23 to discuss construction impacts and traffic management for upcoming roadwork for the Vesta Project on U.S. 58 in Patrick County.

The meeting will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Meadows of Dan Elementary School Gymnasium located at 3003 Jeb Stuart Highway in Meadows of Dan. Parking will be available in the upper playground parking lot.

There will be a brief pre-recorded presentation given at 4:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. Representatives will be available to answer questions and provide information.

This project involves widening approximately 4.5 miles of U.S. 58 in Patrick County from two lanes to four lanes. The project begins near the U.S. 58 Business eastern intersection in Meadows of Dan and ends about 0.5 mile east of Virginia 610 (Cloudbreak Road). Construction started in spring 2025 and is expected to be completed in summer 2031.

This project adjoins the U.S. 58 Lover's Leap widening project that is currently under construction. In addition to the roadway widening, the existing bridge over the Dan River will be replaced with two new bridges. The improvements are intended to enhance safety and support future economic development opportunities along the corridor.

Griffith staff to hold local office hours June 24

Constituent services will be available in Martinsville and Stuart on June 24, during scheduled visits of Congressman Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff.

Staff will be in the City of Martinsville, 10 – 11:30 a.m., City Hall, Room 32, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville.

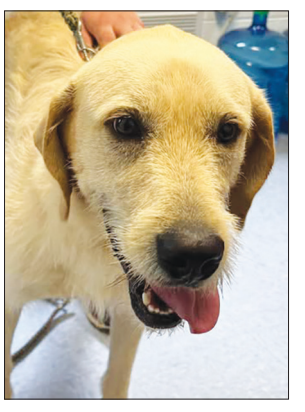
Staff will visit Patrick County from 12:30 – 2 p.m., in the Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Call the Christiansburg Office at 540-381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at 276-525-1405 with any questions.

Pets of the Week



Charlie Girl is a playful 2-year-old mix (who can't seem to put her eyebrow pencil on right). She is active and likes lots of love.



Cooper is a large young terrier mix. He is good with children and other dogs. Very active and love to fetch.



This quiet Calico female seems sad to be at the shelter and would love a forever home.

Please save a life! Adopt! All dogs and cats at the shelter deserve a permanent, loving home. Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter or their Facebook page, to find information about these and other available pets in need of a forever home. Adoption fees are $10 and include spay/neuter and vaccinations.

The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League provides pet food and spay/neuter assistance. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League Facebook page to see our videos of these amazing pets.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Norris Memorial Services

1500 Kings Mtn Rd.
Martinsville, VA,
276-638-2778

Visit our website for pricing:
www.norrismemorialservices.com



WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Supervisors

(cont. from page 1)

After seven years of focusing on structurally balanced budgets, Sacks said the county is now in a much stronger financial position.

"It's been several years of good financial stewardship on the county's behalf to put the county in a strong financial position that it is today," he said.

Over the past five fiscal years, the county has maintained an unassigned fund balance exceeding 20 percent of its annual budget, Sacks said. In fiscal year 2025, that amounted to about $19 million.

Among Davenport's recommendations is a policy requiring the county to maintain an unassigned fund balance equal to 20 percent of the annual budget. Sacks also recommended creating a budget stabilization fund equal to 2.5 percent of the budget.

"The rational and thought process there is you don't want the unassigned fund balance to be sacrosanct — we don't want to touch it, keep our powder dry. That budget stabilization fund will be the first line of defense for any unforeseen revenue shortfalls or expenditures," Sacks said.

He also recommended establishing a capital reserve fund for one-time priorities identified by the board.

If the county ends a fiscal year with a budget surplus, Sacks recommended using a "waterfall" approach to allocate the excess funds.

"First and foremost, making sure that 20 percent unassigned fund balance bucket is full. Then once that is accomplished, 50 percent of that surplus is going into the budget stabilization fund until it is at 2.5 percent, and over and above that to the capital reserved fund or additional reserves for the county that can be used at the board's discretion for one-time purposes that being capital, debt paydown, etcetera," Sacks said.

Sacks said the county currently has about $26.7 million in outstanding debt.

"It's a series of loans that translates into a $2.6-$2.7 million annual payment. This is all fixed rate debt, it all pays off in 2040," he said, adding that about 69.8 percent of the debt will be paid off within the next 10 years.

He recommended adopting a policy limiting the county's debt-to-assessed-value ratio to no more than 3.25 percent. He also recommended capping annual debt service at no more than 10 percent of expenses.

"With a not to exceed 10 percent policy, for every dollar in the budget, we want to make sure that no more than 10 cents of that dollar is going to make a debt service payment," Sacks said.

In other business, the board:

*Heard from Richard Landis, who spoke about Appalachian Power's recent herbicide spraying to control vegetation. Landis asked the board to see whether the company would switch from spraying to cutting unwanted foliage.

*Heard from Kurt Bozenmayer, who praised Patrick County Commonwealth's Attorney Dayna Bobbitt, Sheriff Dan Smith and the board for its continued support of county residents' Second Amendment rights.

*Heard from Ed Pool, who asked the board to remove the old solar ordinance from the Planning Commission's website. Pool also asked the board to consider purchasing an Otter.ai subscription to transcribe board meetings.

*Presented the June Patrick County Partner Award to Larry and Margaret Vernon.

*Approved a $4,141,354.50 appropriation for the Department of Social Services' fiscal year 2026-27 budget.

*Approved releasing $76,000 in capital improvement funds to the JEB Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad.



Davenport & Company LLC Vice President Austin Sacks presents proposed financial policies to the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

*Approved the treasurer's alternate signatory as presented.

*Nominated LuAnn McGuinness to the Southern Area Agency on Aging Board.

*Approved the May 11 and May 26 meeting minutes.

*Approved the bills, claims and appropriations.

*Heard the county administrator's report.

*Heard supervisors' reports.

Transfer

(cont. from page 1)

"The recommended rate remains competitive with surrounding facilities and supports the long-term sustainability of the Transfer Station's operating budget," Hylton said.

Richard Cox, who represents the Smith River District, asked whether the board had raised the fee earlier this year.

Board Chairman Andrew Overby, who represents the Dan River District, said the board approved an increase last year.

County Administrator Michael McGuinness said the county's contract allows the disposal contractor to increase its rates by up to 5 percent annually.

"Last year, we matched that five percent, and the year before that we did not increase the rates. We're just trying to get ahead of it instead of trying to raise it all at one time for the citizens. If we raise it one percent, we can just keep our operating costs where we're at right now. There's no need to raise it five percent," McGuinness said.

Overby asked whether it would be simpler to round the rate up to an even $70 per ton.

Hylton said either rate would be manageable.

"It's pretty much the same. Either one, that'd be you all's decision," Hylton said.

McGuinness agreed, saying the difference would not affect county accounting.

Steve Marshall, who represents the Blue Ridge District, made a motion to increase the rate to $70 per ton. After the motion failed to receive a second, Marshall withdrew it and made a second motion to set the rate at $69.95 per ton.

The board unanimously approved the motion.

Before voting, Jonathan Wood, who represents the Peters Creek District, asked Hylton how many people regularly pay the tipping fee.

"Are we talking hundreds or are we talking thousands," Wood asked.

"Hundreds. It's primarily the commercial businesses. We decreased what we require people to pay for it, so on an average day besides the commercial businesses, you might have 20 people that are required to pay the rate increase," Hylton said.



Transfer Station Manager Scottie Hylton discusses the approved increase in the transfer station tipping fee.

Patrick

(cont. from page 1)

of McBride's residence. McBride eventually appeared in the doorway, but allegedly still would not comply with sheriff's office commands to come out. Deputies closed the distance and were able to remove him from the doorway and take him into custody.

McBride was treated for minor injuries and is being held without bond in the Patrick County Jail.

"I am grateful for our disciplined and well trained deputies," Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith said, emphasizing the patient and coordinated effort which led to a safe outcome for all involved.

"I can't say enough about the level of cooperation with our partners in Henry County, their Bearcat (armored vehicle) saved the day yet again," Smith said, and added that the Henry County Sheriff's Office has routinely assisted Patrick County in barricaded gunman situations by providing the specialized tactical vehicle.

"I am confident that countless lives have been saved over the years by its deployment," the sheriff said in a news release.

McBride was charged with two counts of shoot into an occupied dwelling and one count possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Two rifles were recovered from McBride's home.

The investigation is continuing, and more charges are expected. Patrick County Sheriff's Lt. Steve Austin is leading the investigation.

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and the Virginia State Police also assisted during the incident.

Monthly

(cont. from page 1)



Herbert and Tina Conner provided musical entertainment during the May luncheon.



More than 80 seniors attended the Patrick County Senior Citizens Group luncheon in May.

nizations occasionally provide meals.

"The Landmark does a meal for us one month a year and the Reynolds Homestead does a meal for us one of the months. The Stuart Rotary Club is doing a meal for us in December, and we use the donations sometimes to pay part of it and the citizens may just bring a dessert like they are in June," she said.

Attendance typically ranges from 80 to 90 people, with newcomers regularly joining the group.

"People who come aren't necessarily from Patrick County. We have people here from Carroll County today, a number of people from Henry County, from Stokes County, from Surry County, so all surrounding areas are welcome to come to our meetings," she said.

In addition to the monthly gatherings, Lacks organizes three trips each year for interested seniors.

"Usually one overnight trip and two day trips. Of course the participants have to pay their own cost for that," she said.

The next trip is a four-day, three-night visit to Virginia's Eastern Shore in June. In August, the group plans a day trip to Selma, North Carolina, to attend the Classic Country Jubilee at the Rudy Theatre. In December, participants will travel to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre in Wytheville to see "An Appalachian Christmas."

Lacks said the organization operates primarily on donations and receives no state or federal funding.

"We have existed on the generosity of this community. I'm not from Patrick County, but I've lived in a lot of rural communities, and I've never seen a community like Patrick County that rises to the occasion when there's a need. When I thought our treasury was going to get low and we might not be able to buy the paper products, somebody gave forward and it was provided," she said.

She said the Patrick County Board of Supervisors also has recognized the group's needs.

"We hope in our next upcoming budget we'll have $3,000 to help pay for our paper products and our meal or so a month," she said.

For more information, contact the Patrick County Recreation Department at 276-694-3917 or Judy Lacks at 276-694-4767.

Librarian of Congress



Morgan Griffith

Representative

The U.S. Constitution outlines three branches of government.

Article I concerns the functions and duties of the Legislative Branch.

The Constitution provides for Congress to lay and collect taxes, raise and support Armies and make laws, among other powers.

Then comes Article II. An Executive Branch is responsible for enforcing the laws.

Taking the mantle of Executive power is the President. The President serves as Commander in Chief of the U.S. military, makes treaties and controls appointments to the Executive.

Article III details the role of a Judicial Branch.

This section establishes a U.S. Supreme Court and a robust legal system. This system reviews potential Constitutional conflicts that arise from legal and government actions.

These three Articles are foundational pillars of our government.

However, over time the lines of government functions have blurred between the Executive and Legislative Branches.

For example, I have worked in Congress to deliver clarity on the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).

The Constitution reserves for Congress the powers to impose tariffs on imported goods and regulate commerce with foreign countries.

Yet, over several generations, Congress has delegated control of trade policy to the President by allowing the Executive Branch to impose tariffs if certain trade conditions, as defined by Congress, are met.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Congress passed laws to establish a USTR and expand that office's responsibilities.

As a result, every president since President Kennedy has appointed someone to lead the USTR office.

This discrepancy in U.S. trade policy leadership has created confusion between the Executive and Legislative Branches.

Article I, Section 8 says Congress has the authority "to regulate commerce with the foreign nations…" As someone who believes Congress should exercise its authority granted by the Constitution, this USTR dynamic needs correction.

For multiple Congresses, under presidents of both parties, I have written and introduced a bill that would redesignate the USTR office as a function of the Legislative Branch, not the Executive Branch.

This year, I am also the leader of another bill that designates certain government officers and addresses other constitutional inconsistencies.

My bill, H.R. 6028, the Legislative Branch Agencies Clarification Act, affects the government offices of the Library of Congress, Government Publishing Office (GPO) and U.S. Copyright Office.

Respectively, the three leaders of these offices are the Librarian of Congress, the GPO Director and the Register of Copyrights.

Each of these officers serve as valuable resources to their institutions, Congress and the American people.

However, control over these officials has been an issue of contention.

In the cases of the Librarian and GPO Director, these officers are directly responsive and accountable to the needs of the Legislative Branch. They lead agencies that preserve wide varieties of documents, promote legislative access and support other legislative functions.

Meanwhile, the job that the Register of the Copyrights Office does properly belongs with the Executive Branch.

Despite this fact, the president has had the power to appoint the Librarian as well as the GPO Director.

My bill establishes a new Congressional appointment framework for the Librarian of Congress and GPO Director.

This framework is very similar to the appointment process for the Architect of the Capitol, which is another legislative agency that tends to the affairs of Congress.

Meanwhile, the Register of the Copyright Office is subject to a different process.

Under the current process, the Librarian appoints the Register.

Nonetheless, the Register performs many Executive-like functions, as their Office plays a key role in the administration of copyright registrations.

My bill sets forth a new appointment process for the Register. With the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate, the President will rightfully appoint this official.

I believe that because of the help in drafting the final language from the Trump Administration, Republican Chairman Bryan Steil and Democratic Ranking Member Joe Morelle of the Committee on House Administration, and former Virginia Congressman Bob Goodlatte, this bill is a great example of collaborative legislative action which restores the historic balance between the two Branches.

The House passed the bill without objection in June.

I am hopeful the Senate does the same to deliver the bill to President Trump's desk.

These may seem like small steps, but they show that Congress is willing to address constitutional inconsistencies and reassert its Article I responsibilities.

That said, I will continue to push legislation that helps the Legislative Branch serve the American people as set forth in the Constitution.

5 Tips Safety Tips For the Summer

At my house, the first day of summer is always greeted with great excitement. For my kids, summer is swimming, playing outside, camping, boating, building forts, and all sorts of other outdoor activities. I like summer too. I love finally getting to eat the yummy garden produce planted in spring. I enjoy staying up late and not feeling guilty (after all, it's still light outside!). I especially enjoy the warm mornings, as I don't like getting up in a cold house. Yes, summer is a great time of year!

Despite all the fun, the added outdoor activities do increase the rate of accidental injuries. However, this is no reason to stay cooped up indoors. We have five safety tips that will help you avoid an unexpected catastrophe:

1 Protect your skin.

Always wear sunscreen on your exposed skin. Sunscreen with SPF of 50 is best. Remember, it must be re-applied every 1 to 2 hours to provide the best protection from harmful rays. Long sleeves are a great option as well, especially if you have a shirt made from lightweight breathable fabric.

Keep in mind that sunburn can cause more harm than a day or two of discomfort. In fact, each sunburn a person gets dramatically increases their risk of melanoma (a common skin cancer) as well as squamous and basal cell cancers (which can be quite disfiguring).

2 Check for ticks.

If you are anywhere near long grass, trees, old buildings, or outside dogs or cats, you are at risk for a tick bite. Lyme disease is a terrible illness that can be transmitted through the bites of certain ticks. In most cases, the tick must be attached for at least 24 to transmit the disease. Unfortunately, ticks are very small and many are not discovered until they have been embedded on the person for several days and have grown in size. To be safe, you need to carefully check yourself (and your kids) for ticks each night. Remember, ticks prefer to attach themselves to warm, moist parts of the body, such as the armpits or groin.

To remove ticks, pull them gently from the skin with a pair of tweezers—making sure the head comes out with the body. (Pulling slowly and not twisting increases the chance of the head remaining attached.) Many folk remedies recommend coating ticks with Vaseline or other substances, but this is not necessary. A quick removal with a tweezers is the best method. Once the tick is gone, you should be fine. However, if you develop a rash or fever within four to six weeks of the tick exposure, seek medical attention.

3 Use mosquito repellant.

Mosquitos can be real pests, especially at dusk or dawn when they are most active. Although we don't have malaria in this country, mosquitoes do sometimes carry viruses that can make one very sick. West Nile Virus, Equine encephalitis, and St. Louise virus are just a few of them. Mosquito repellants containing DEET are the most effective for preventing mosquito bites (as a bonus, it also repels ticks). However, DEET is somewhat toxic and exposure should be limited. It would be better to spray it on clothing than to apply it directly to your skin.

4 Practice water safety.

It may sound like common sense, but wear life jackets when boating. It doesn't matter if you are an excellent swimmer. In a boating accident, even good swimmers may drown—especially if knocked unconscious. If your child can't swim the length of a pool—he or she needs to ALWAYS wear a life jacket with head flotation, unless within arms length of a supervising adult. In my career, I have taken care of way too many tragic drowning victims, who drowned under the noses of well meaning, but distracted adults. It is very easy to be distracted at a pool party and it only takes 1-2 minutes for a submerged child to suffer permanent brain damage. Don't take the risk, put on the life preserver.

5 Stay hydrated.

On hot summer days, it is easy to get dehydrated. Always carry water with you and remember to drink liberally. Children are especially prone to dehydration and may not stop their play at the first signs of thirst. Keep water handy and set a timer to remind everyone to tank up. Remember, water is the healthiest beverage you can drink. Stay away from juices and sodas.

How much water should you drink? The standard advice is to drink a minimum of 8 glasses of water a day (64 ounces). This is a good rule of thumb even for children. Of course, on a hot summer day, people will need to drink more, particularly if they are sweating a lot.

Well, those tips are not so difficult are they? With a little bit of caution and a lot of common sense, you can have a safe, enjoyable summer. Remember to stay healthy and have fun!

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Rachel Nelson, MD. Used by permission from www.LifeandHealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

THE ENTERPRISE

THE ENTERPRISE
Established in 1876
USPS 523-500
P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901
Phone (304) 647-5724 *Mountain Media*
www.theenterprise.net

PUBLISHER
Michael Showell
EDITOR
Debbie Hall
ADVERTISING
Wendi Craig
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The oldest continuously operated business in Patrick County

Published each Wednesday by Virginia Media, Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

The Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

Postmaster: send address changes to The Enterprise, P.O. Box 348, Stuart, VA 24171-0348. Subscription Rates: $37 per year in Patrick County; $50 per year in state; $50 per year out of state. Single copies $1.50.

Prosecutor

(cont. from page 1)

mortgage agreements — including references to 'primary residence,' 'principal residence,' or 'owner-occupied property' — exists within the context of a private contractual lending relationship and does not govern or determine voter eligibility under Virginia law. Such terminology is generally utilized to distinguish owner-occupied property from second homes, investment property, or rental property for purposes of lending risk and loan qualification," the letter states.

Branscom wrote that in contrast, the Virginia statutory and administrative framework governing voter registration and domicile employs a broader and different analysis.

"Under the Virginia Administrative Code, a 'domicile' is defined as a person's primary home and the place considered to be the center of that person's domestic, social, and civil life, with domicile being primarily a matter of intent. The regulations further recognize that a person may maintain multiple places of abode," the letter states.

Branscom wrote that Virginia law relating to voter residency has consistently been interpreted broadly to facilitate, rather than unnecessarily restrict, voter eligibility.

"The legal framework recognizes that residency determinations are often fact-specific and dependent upon the totality of a person's circumstances and intent," the letter states.

Additionally, Branscom wrote that the mortgage documents do not separately distinguish between Simms and Smith regarding occupancy obligations but instead treat them collectively as borrowers throughout the agreement.

During the investigation, Branscom wrote that the commonwealth's review extended beyond the mortgage documentation to include discussions with the registrant and a review of all additional information and witnesses made available to the commonwealth.

"Importantly, no witness or evidence established that Ms. Sims (sic) was not residing at or utilizing property in Patrick County as her place of abode or domicile as contemplated under Virginia law. Likewise, no evidence was presented demonstrating that any representations made by Ms. Sims (sic) regarding her residency were knowingly false or criminal in nature. While the materials submitted raised suspicions and inferences regarding residency, suspicions alone do not rise beyond speculation and are insufficient to establish criminal liability," the letter states.

Patrick Pioneers



Martha with oldest daughter Beverly Adkins



Martha, the tomboy



John D. and Drucilla Walker Adkins and grandchildren



Posey and Lillie Gray Shelton

Martha Shelton Adkins

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Some people leave their mark through wealth or public recognition. Others leave it through countless acts of kindness that may never make the headlines but are remembered for generations by the people whose lives they touched. Martha Shelton Adkins was one of those people.

Martha Shelton Adkins was born in Patrick County on June 14, 1923, to Posey Lester Shelton and Lillie Gray Shelton. She came from deep Patrick County roots. Her father was the son of James Henry Shelton and Wilmouth Walker Shelton, while her mother was the daughter of John Gray and Mary Ann Brown Gray, all lifelong residents of Patrick County.

Martha was the youngest of four children born to Posey and Lillie Shelton. Her siblings were Raymond Linville Shelton (1914–2001), Lois Minnie Shelton Morris (1917–1970), and Mary Wilma Shelton Allen (1920–1991). Many Patrick County residents will recognize the name Raymond Linville Shelton from the well-known R. L. Shelton Trucking Company.

On January 9, 1943, Martha Shelton married Emmett Elwyn Adkins. The ceremony was performed by the Honorable John S. Taylor, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Patrick County. Emmett was the son of John Doss Adkins and Drucilla Walker Adkins of Buffalo Ridge.

Together, Martha and Emmett raised three daughters: Beverly Ann Adkins (1945–), Angela Renay Adkins (1949–), and Lydia Grey Adkins (1951–).

While Martha devoted herself to her family, she also became known throughout Patrick County for her tireless work ethic and generous spirit.

Her daughter, Angela Adkins Morris, shared treasured memories of her mother's years in the restaurant business.

"She started working for Smokey and Ada Fulton at Smokey's Grill. When Smokey passed, she later became the manager. I was in high school during that period of time and later in my second year of college. The restaurant closed, and she became manager of The Virginian Restaurant, which was attached to the motel. It's now an office building.

"At The Virginian, she worked 364 days a year, often more than 12 hours a day. She'd get home close to midnight, read four or five different versions of the Bible, take a hot bath, and go to bed. She slept very little because she needed to be back at the restaurant by 5 a.m. to prepare breakfast and make biscuits so they could open by 6 a.m. She said the utility linemen had to eat early."

Angela remembers that her mother's concern for others often outweighed concerns about profits.

"If someone came to the restaurant and needed to be fed but didn't have any money, she'd tell them to order whatever they wanted, and she paid for it out of her own pocket. She aimed to please everyone and learned what her customers liked, then fixed it."

Those who knew Martha understood that serving people was not simply her job—it was her calling.

Angela also recalled her mother's leadership in one of Patrick County's most beloved Thanksgiving traditions.

"She baked turkeys for days—not just for the restaurant, but also for the Home Alone Mission that started at Stuart Baptist Church. She and another gentleman came up with the idea. The purpose was to help people who were alone on Thanksgiving. People who were able could come to the church for a meal. If they couldn't, volunteers delivered meals to them."

Before each Thanksgiving, Martha would travel throughout the county seeking donations from local businesses to make the effort possible.



Martha with daughters Beverly, Angela, and Lydia

"Home Alone was very successful," Angela remembered. "A few years later, each community in the county started its own Home Alone."

Her efforts touched countless lives. What began as a simple act of compassion grew into a countywide tradition of caring for neighbors.

Many longtime residents may also remember hearing WHEO radio announcer Jim Litten read The Virginian Restaurant's daily menu over the airwaves. According to this author, he always ended the announcement with a smile in his voice and the words, "and good old 'nanner pudding!"

It was a small detail, but one that captures the warmth and familiarity of a community gathering place made special by people like Martha Adkins.

On December 26, 2006, Martha Shelton Adkins passed away at the age of 83 at R. J. Reynolds Patrick County Memorial Hospital. She had spent her final years as a resident of the Blue Ridge Nursing Center and had previously lived on Fairystone Park Highway.

Her obituary noted that she was a member of Stuart Baptist Church, had managed and operated the former Virginian Restaurant, and had been one of the founding organizers of the Home Alone Thanksgiving meal program. It also noted that she remained active in its fundraising efforts for many years.

Those facts tell part of her story. The larger story is found in the countless meals served, the hungry strangers fed from her own pocket, the early mornings spent making biscuits, the long days spent baking turkeys, and the many people who felt cared for because Martha Adkins took the time to care.

Patrick County has been blessed with many hardworking people, but few demonstrated the quiet spirit of service more faithfully than Martha Shelton Adkins. Her life reminds us that some of the most important work is done not for recognition, but simply because someone sees a need and decides to help.

And in that way, Martha Adkins left Patrick County a little kinder than she found it. Thank you to Angela Adkins Morris for sharing information and photographs of her mother. For questions, comments, or story ideas, Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisor

Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – Why Don't We Have a minimum Social Security Benefit?

Dear Rusty: I think we should have a Social Security baseline of $2,500 for each person. When I retire, my Social Security benefit will not be enough to survive. There are many of us who worked low paying jobs all our lives because we raised families and only started saving later in life. Considering all the money our government wastes on other countries and welfare programs for people who have not worked, it seems unfair that they will not reward those of us who contributed to society all our lives. *Signed: Needs More Social Security.*

Dear Needs More: For information, the concept of a "minimum" Social Security benefit is not new and, indeed, already exists - but it is one which few beneficiaries qualify for. The so-called "special minimum benefit" was meant to lift low-earning workers above the poverty line, but less than 32,000 SS beneficiaries (out of about 59 million retirees) currently qualify. That's because Social Security's benefit formula turns out to be more generous because it is based on lifetime earnings (wages), while the "special minimum benefit" program is based on consumer prices. That causes the SS benefit formula to provide a nigher SS benefit than is provided by the "special minimum benefit" option. In other words, people get a higher benefit because their SS benefit is based upon their actual lifetime earnings vs. an artificially created special minimum benefit. In short, the existing SS benefit formula usually provides more than the established "special minimum benefit."

The SS benefit program is based on each person's average monthly income over their lifetime. However, it is very important to understand that the program is also designed to provide a higher monthly benefit to those with a lower lifetime income. Thus, the percentage of "replacement income" for those with lower lifetime earnings is more than it is for those with higher lifetime earnings. Typically, a lower-lifetime income person will get about 40% of their average pre-retirement monthly income as their Social Security benefit, whereas a higher-income person will get about 20% or less of their pre-retirement monthly average income. In this way, Social Security is already a "progressive" program. But it's important to understand also that Social Security, from its beginning, was never meant to provide 100% of a person's income needs in retirement. Thus, each beneficiary should plan to supplement their retirement income in other ways (such as retirement savings, investment income, working longer, working part-time, etc.).

Having said that, it is also important to know that Social Security is a completely self-sustaining program and not dependent on general public funding, which would make it more susceptible to political shenanigans (imagine giving re-election seeking politicians easy access to Social Security's separately held resources). While it is certainly true that the government spends freely on "welfare programs" for those who have not worked, Social Security is not a program which is dependent on government largesse. Rather, it is a benefit which is earned by working and contributing to the program, which provides retirement benefits based upon each person's average lifetime work income.

If you expect financial difficulties when you retire, I encourage you to visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging (www.benefitscheckup.org). Here you can enter your zip code and find many public programs which you might be eligible for where you live, including assistance with healthcare costs, housing, utilities, etc.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

Track and Field Team Brings Home Medals at State Competition

By Ashlee Mullis

The PC Track and Field competed at the VHSL Class 2 State Championships at James Madison University. The Cougars had several All-State honors and top-eight medal recipients.

Sophomore Gracen Conner narrowly missed a state medal in the Girls 400m dash.

Conner finished 10th with a time of 1:02.89. She ran a personal-best 1:01.99 earlier in the season, putting her on the board as one of the fastest runners in PC history.

In the field events, Aaliyah Spencer earned All-State honors in the Girls Discus. Spencer placed 6th overall with a throw of 104 feet, 8 inches, securing a state medal.

Hunter Martin earned a state medal in the Boys 1600-meter run, placing 4th overall in a personal-best time of 4:34.81.

In the Boys 800-meter run, Fisher Martin finished 8th with a time of 2:03.41 and earning an All-State medal.

Noah Hiatt medaled in the Boys 3200-meter run, placing 7th in the state with a time of 10:08.65.

The Boys 4x800-meter relay team of Greely Terry, Hiatt, Fisher Martin, and Hunter Martin placed 4th in the state with a time of 8:20.96, earning All-State honors and narrowly missing a top-three finish.

The Boys 4x400-meter relay team of Glen Stovall, Aeden Frazier, Eli Slater-Hairston, and Terry also earned state medals, finishing 7th overall with a time of 3:36.03.

Patrick County's Girls 4x800-meter relay team of Sarah Hagwood, Emma Purdy, Analeigh Jones, and Ellianna Montgomery finished 14th overall with a time of 11:25.26.

Wood Brothers Racing announces driver change for 2027

Wood Brothers Racing, the longest-running active team competing in NASCAR, confirmed last week that it will not exercise its option with driver Josh Berry for the 2027 NASCAR Cup Series season. Currently in his second year with the team, Berry will continue to race the No. 21 Ford Mustang Dark Horse through the balance of the 2026 season. Wood Brothers Racing will announce the new driver of the No. 21 Ford Mustang Dark Horse for the 2027 Cup Series season in the near future.

"We thank Josh Berry for all he's done for Wood Brothers Racing and our partners over the last two seasons. Josh has been a great teammate and we look forward to a strong finish to this season," Wood Brothers Racing wrote in a statement. "We wish Josh all the best moving forward. We will announce who will be driving the No. 21 Ford Mustang Dark Horse in 2027 soon and we are excited for what lies ahead for Wood Brothers Racing."

PCHS Track and Field Competes at Regionals

By Ashlee Mullis

The PCHS Track and Field Team competed in the VHSL Region 2C Outdoor Track Championship on May 29.

Gracen Conner finished 4th in the Girls 100m and the Girls 200m.

Mitchell Glenn Stovall finished 12th in the Boys 300m Hurdles.

In the Boys 800m Greely Terry finished 6th and Riley Jones finished 12th.

Analeigh Jones placed 11th in the Girls 800m.

In the Boys 1600m, Hunter Martin finished 3rd and Noah Hiatt finished 5th.

Cameron Rakes, Emma Purdy, and Paisley Shuff finished 8th, 10th, and 13th, respectively, in the Girls 1600m.

In the Girls Discus Throw, Aaliyah Spencer finished 3rd. Spencer placed 12th in the Girls Shot Put while Laila Hairston finished 15th.

In the Boys 4x100m Relay, the team of Aeden Frazier, Braydon Hylton, Josiah Shelor, and Elijah Slater-Hairston finished 7th.

In the Boys 4x400m Relay, Slater-Hairston, Greely Terry, Frazier, and Mitchell Stovall finished 2nd.

The Girls 4x800m Relay, consisting of Sarah Hagwood, Analeigh Jones, Ellianna Montgomery, and Emma Purdy, finished 3rd.

Community invited to picnic on the Rail Trail, mural unveiling

Bull Mountain Arts and the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce invite residents and visitors to gather for an afternoon of community, art, and outdoor enjoyment of a Picnic on the Rail Trail on Saturday, June 20, from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Mayo River Rail Trail Picnic Area on Commerce Street in Stuart.

The event will celebrate the unveiling of the new Water Tower Mural, a public art project that adds another vibrant landmark to the Mayo River Rail Trail and downtown Stuart. Community members are encouraged to bring their own picnic lunch and enjoy time with friends, family, and neighbors in one of Patrick County's most scenic outdoor spaces.

Complimentary treats will be available from the Pickle & Ash Food Truck while supplies last.

At 1 p.m., attendees will have the opportunity to meet mural artist Jon Murrill, who will share insights into the inspiration, design, and creation of the mural. This informal artist conversation offers a unique chance to learn more about the creative process and the role public art plays in enhancing community spaces.

The event is free and open to the public.

"Public art helps tell the story of our community while creating welcoming spaces for residents and visitors alike," said Lora Mahaffey, President, Bull Mountain Arts. "We invite everyone to join us in celebrating this exciting addition to the Mayo River Rail Trail."

For more information, contact the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce at (276) 694-6012 or visit PatrickChamber.com.

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET



Race Report: Pocono Raceway

By Wood Brothers Racing

Somewhere A multi-car incident in the opening laps of Stage 2 proved costly for Josh Berry and the No. 21 Capgemini Ford Mustang Dark Horse team in Sunday's Great American Getaway 400 at Pocono Raceway.

Berry was credited with a 33rd-place finish after damage sustained in the Lap 47 accident left the No. 21 team battling an uphill challenge for the remainder of the afternoon.

After taking the green flag from 20th on the starting grid, Berry settled in around the top 20 early and crossed the finish line 21st at the conclusion of the opening 30-lap stage.

Early in Stage 2, Berry found himself in the middle of a three-wide battle with Shane van Gisbergen and Austin Hill. Contact between the cars sent Berry into the outside wall and triggered a chain-reaction incident involving several competitors. Although the Capgemini Ford avoided a trip to the garage, the contact caused suspension damage that hindered the team's ability to compete for track position.

Berry remained on track and continued to battle through the adversity, finishing Stage 2 in the 27th position. During the caution period between stages, the Wood Brothers crew made repairs to the damaged No. 21 Ford, but the work required additional time on pit road and resulted in the team losing two laps.

Returning to the race in 34th place, Berry and the No. 21 team pressed forward through the final stage. Despite the damaged race car, the team continued to fight to the finish, ultimately gaining one position before the checkered flag.

With Pocono in the rearview mirror, Berry and the Wood Brothers now turn their attention to next weekend's Anduril 250 Race the Base at Naval Base Coronado near San Diego, California. The historic event will mark the first NASCAR race held on an active U.S. military installation.



Juneteenth Freedom Celebration set at Reynolds Homestead

The Reynolds Homestead will host a Juneteenth Freedom Celebration on Friday, June 19, from 12 to 5 p.m.

Participants will be able to tour the historic home and kitchen, visit the tobacco barn, cemetery for the enslaved community, rock spring and the community engagement center where they will have an opportunity to review research about the men, women, and children who were enslaved on the plantation and create a cornhusk doll, a popular toy for enslaved children. Other activities including a series of cakewalks will be held on the grounds. Guest Ben Jackson will share information on how bricks were made by enslaved workers and teach participants how to locate fingerprints made during the brick-making process.

A fellowship meal will be served at 3 p.m. Following the meal, a closing ceremony honoring those who were enslaved on the plantation will held, followed by a closing song and benediction led by Bishop Burgie Penn.

For additional information related to this year's celebration, visit https://reynoldshomestead.vt.edu/upcoming-events/Juneteenth.html.

Emergency loans available for farmers in nine counties designated natural disaster areas

Farmers in nine Virginia counties are eligible for emergency loans after their drought-stricken areas have been designated natural disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The designation allows the USDA Farm Service Agency to extend much-needed emergency loans to farmers affected by drought. The loans can be used for replacing equipment or livestock, reorganizing a farming operation, or refinancing certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Counties eligible for the loan program include: Amherst, Appomattox, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Henry, Nelson, Pittsylvania and Sussex.

Additionally, the following contiguous areas are eligible: Albemarle, Augusta, Bedford, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Franklin, Greensville, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Patrick, Prince Edward, Prince George, Rockbridge, Southampton and Surry counties, and the cities of Danville, Lynchburg and Martinsville.

The deadline to apply for a loan is Jan. 31, 2027. Farmers can determine program and loan options by visiting farmers.gov and using its Loan Assistance Tool.

To file a Notice of Loss or for other questions, contact your local USDA Service Center.

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL26000144-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1;8.01-316,-317,20-104
PATRICK CIRCUIT COURT
101 WEST BLUE RIDGE STREET/PO BOX 148, STUART, VA 24171
RAS TRUSTEE SERVICES LLC v. THE ESTATE OF THOMAS DEAL, ET AL

The object of this suit is to:
PROVIDE PROPER SERVICE TO HEIRS WITH UNKNOWN WHEREABOUTS
It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN HEIRS OF, ESTATE OF THOMAS DEAL AND JULIA HUTCHENS appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 10, 2026.
MAY 26, 2026
Clerk

email us
DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

LEGAL

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for Patrick County, Virginia and Incorporated Areas

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Patrick County, Virginia and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for Patrick County, Virginia and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance exchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

LEGAL

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Route 58 Vesta Project
Patrick County

"Pardon our Dust"
Public Information Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 4 - 6 p.m.
Meadows of Dan Elementary School Gymnasium
3003 Jeb Stuart Highway
Meadows of Dan, Virginia 24120

The Virginia Department of Transportation in conjunction with design-build contractor Triton Construction, Inc. will hold a "Pardon Our Dust" public information meeting to discuss construction impacts and traffic management for upcoming roadwork on Route 58 in Patrick County.

There will be a brief pre-recorded presentation given at 4:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. and representatives will answer questions and provide information.

This project involves widening approximately 4.5 miles of Route 58 in Patrick County from two lanes to four lanes. The project begins near the Route 58 Business eastern intersection in Meadows of Dan and ends about 0.5 mile east of Route 610 (Cloudbreak Road). This project adjoins the Route 58 Lover's Leap widening project that is currently under construction. In addition to the roadway widening, the existing bridge over the Dan River will be replaced with two new bridges. The improvements are intended to enhance safety and support future economic development opportunities along the corridor.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT at 540-387-5552, 1-800-367-7623, TTY/TDD 711.

In case of inclement weather or other issues, the meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 30 at the same time and location.

Virginia Quilt Museum to open exhibit commemorating Virginia history

The Virginia Quilt Museum will open Stitching Together History: 250 Quilts Commemorating the Commonwealth of Virginia on July 4.

The exhibition, which runs through Dec. 22, will feature 257 quilts created by fiber artists from across the United States. Each 20-by-20-inch quilt interprets a person, place, event or idea connected to Virginia's history.

The exhibit is the result of a nationwide call for entries held in 2024. More than 275 quilts were submitted before a jury selected the final collection.

"Stitching Together History is an extraordinary exhibition commemorating the history of Virginia and West Virginia," said Alicia Thomas, executive director of the Virginia Quilt Museum.

Thomas said the exhibit includes quilts that examine both difficult and uplifting aspects of history, along with works highlighting heroes, everyday citizens, natural landscapes and cultural traditions.

The exhibition coincides with the America250 and Virginia250 commemorations marking the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

A companion book published by Schiffer Publishing features the quilts and the stories behind them.

Located in the historic Silver Lake Mill in Dayton, the Virginia Quilt Museum is the official quilt museum of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Founded in 1995, the museum is dedicated to preserving and promoting the quilting arts through exhibitions, educational programs and community engagement.

For admission information and museum hours, visit www.vaquiltmuseum.org.

DON'T FALL BEHIND ON YOUR READING
JOIN OUR FREE DIGITAL NEWSLETTER INSTEAD
GO TO theenterprise.net
CLICK NOW TO JOIN
STAY UP TO DATE ON LOCAL NEWS



THANK YOU FOR READING

Tired of driving to the landfill?

We'll pick it up at your curb!
Household pickup once a week - $36 month
Dumpsters for residential and business use available.

WE ARE NOW OFFERING ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS.
Please call for pricing. 276-251-1303
RURAL SERVICES
Residential & Commercial Garbage Collection in P.C.
ruralservicesinc.@swva.net

OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

VISIT THE ENTERPRISE ONLINE AT WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Your relationships are why Ashbrook Audiology has corrected hearing issues for 20 years. Your relationships are more important than anything else in your life. Correcting your hearing issues positively improves every relationship you have. People just like you regain and strengthen their relationships with their family and friends everyday because they discovered Ashbrook Audiology. Come in today and experience first-hand the incredible and affordable increase in your quality of life these communication systems can bring you, and from professionals who wear hearing instruments themselves.

WE TAKE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS SERIOUSLY! DO YOU!


Cynthia M. Jones, AA, AS

ASHBROOK AUDIOLOGY
WHERE RELATIONSHIPS MATTER

1111 Spruce Street
MARTINSVILLE, VA
(276) 666-0401

4500 Riverside Drive
DANVILLE, VA
(434) 792-2182

1-877-610-HEAR (4327)

ADVERTISE WITH US

"We Feed What We Sell"
Economically priced and more feed value for your money.
AVAILABLE IN BAG OR BULK
- Horse Feed
- Chicken Feed
- Beef Grower Feeds
- Corn Gluten Pellets
- Sheep & Goat Feed
- Hay Stretcher
- Calf Feed
- Soyhull Pellets

Whole Beef Hamburger $5.75/lb.
HAMBURGER PATTIES $6.00 LB.
We buy Corn, Oats, Wheat & Barley. Call for price.
Performance Livestock & Feed Company
Call for prices today!
888-777-5912
Mark Pendleton Jason Pendleton

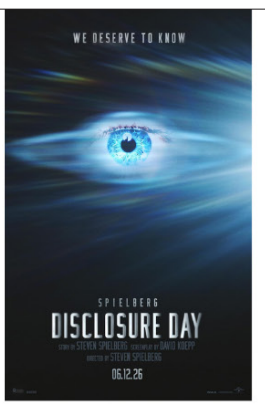
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

hollywoodcinema.net


1-4-7-9:15




1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9


1-3-5-7-9


1-4-7-9:15
$5 tickets
near Walmart Martinsville
276-656-3456

OBITUARIES

Carol Yvonne Barker Rodgers



Mrs. Carol Yvonne Barker Rodgers, age 80 of Patrick Springs, Virginia, passed away at Stuart Community Hospital on Monday June 8, 2026. She was born in Danville, Virginia on December 29, 1945 to the late Graham B. Barker and Mae Pecola Yeatts Barker. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel J. Rodgers, Jr. Carol enjoyed singing and spending time with her family, especially on holidays. She loved her family dearly, and truly adored being Grandma to her grandchildren.

Left to cherish the memories of Carol are three children, Dana R. Clark of Daytona Beach, FL, Daniel "Jack" Rodgers, III of Patrick Springs, VA, and Patty R. Holt and Steven Holt (Hootie) of Stuart, VA; three grandchildren, Jon Clark (Kaitlin) of Roanoke, VA, Casey M. Clark of Daytona Beach, FL, and Amber R. Southern (Hunter) of Meadows of Dan, VA; four great-grandchildren; special friends Tammy Hodnett and Tom Webb; beloved dog, Dexter; and beloved cat, Biggie Smalls.

A memorial service for Mrs. Rodgers will be held Friday, June 12, 2026 at 4:00 P.M. with Bill Banks officiating. Family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Ralph Elmo Howell, Jr.

Mr. Ralph Elmo Howell, Jr., age 79 passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 in Winston-Salem, NC. He was formerly from Patrick and Henry Counties, growing up in the Sanville community. His parents were Ralph Elmo Howell, Sr. and Georgia Inez Koger Howell.

He was a graduate of John D. Bassett High School Class of 1965. After school he served as an electronics technician in the United States Coast Guard. He was very humble, respectful, professional, loyal, and a good listener during his life and career. He loved the outdoors, especially watersports and skiing at Philpott Lake, riding his Harley-Davidson while going on trips with his friends; enjoyed shooting, restoring old cars and attending car shows, watching college basketball and comedies on television. He was very musically talented and could play any instrument, with the guitar being his favorite.

He retired as a Master Trooper with the Virginia State Police in 2004, and upon retirement he worked part-time as a bailiff with the Patrick County Sherriff's Department.

Mr. Howell is survived by his wife of 43 years, Lynne Bergquist Howell of Winston-Salem, NC; four children: Nicole H. Francisco (Shannon) of Winston-Salem, NC; Jennifer H. Foley of Belews Creek, NC; Meredith H. Cisco (Chris) of Stuart, VA; and Luke T. Howell of Winston-Salem, NC. Seven grandchildren: Travis D. Francisco of Winston-Salem, NC; Trevor D. Francisco USAF Dyess AFB, TX; Trenton D. Francisco USN North Island Coronado, CA; Jeremy C. Hall, Jordan D. Foley, and Dustin N. Howell all of Belews Creek, NC; and Cassie E. White of Woolwine, VA; one great-granddaughter: August K. Wilson; one brother: Rodney D. Howell (Faye) of Sanville, VA; and the mother of his daughters and friend: Shirley Ashworth Pearson of Belews Creek, NC; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Services for Mr. Howell will be private. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Heat Stress and Berry Crops



Strawberry with curling leaves, no flowers or buds. *Photos from Adel's garden.*



Invasive Wineberry, curling leaves, but otherwise fine.

By Kristine Adel
Patrick County Master Gardeners

This summer's heat has been unrelenting, and if you're like me, you may have even stood outside watching a water-laden cloud unload for a few minutes on your neighbors across the way - while not a single drop fell onto your garden.

Or even if it did reach your garden, it didn't drop enough water to make a difference. The sun is evaporating far more water than one cloudburst can replenish.

The effects of heat are devastating on all of our plants especially our berries. We want those berries big, sweet, colorful, and juicy. Instead, the plants are baking in the sun, slowing fruit production, or maybe stopping their growing processes entirely.

Signs of Heat Stress

You may have noticed curling leaves, wilt, yellowing, and/or some leaf drop on your caneberries or strawberries. Their root systems are typically less than four inches deep where the soil dries out fast. Soil in container plantings and raised beds is especially vulnerable to drying out.

Blueberries also have shallow root systems. They may not be showing wilt and leaf drop right away. Instead, the fruit may have stopped developing and begun to shrivel.

Even grape vines with their deep roots are likely to be affected with fewer and smaller fruits.

Cascading Damage - Insects, Disease, and Fungus

Without relief, plants will begin to drop flowers, new buds, and developing fruit. Any fruit that does reach maturity will likely be smaller, less flavorful, and/or deformed. Caneberries may be stunted and discolored as heat stress brings out both White Drupelet Disorder and Red Drupelet Reversion.

Eventually the plants could shut down entirely.

Even if it never comes to that, prolonged and repeated heat stress will weaken your plants' resistance to pests and disease setting them up for under performance and failure season after season.

A healthy plant that might withstand a few aphids might be overrun when heat stressed - which is bad enough in itself, but even worse knowing that aphids and white flies transmit 76% of all plant viruses.

Fruit flies may become an issue including the invasive Spotted Wing Drosophila (Drosophila Suzukii) which, unlike other fruit flies that infest rotting fruit, will lay eggs into soft skinned healthy fruits, ruining the entire crop.

We might imagine in weather so hot and dry that, at least, we are free from issues with mold and fungus. We might, but sadly, it's not true. Powdery Mildew thrives in these conditions, inhibiting photosynthesis, flower development, and fruit setting.

What to Do

As always, the earlier you start tackling heat stress, the better. Here are eight suggestions that may help:

1. *Water*

Drip irrigation is best. Soaker hoses are nice. A bucket of water slowly poured around the entire root system area beneath each plant will work, too.

Try to avoid using a sprinkler if possible. A sprinkler is probably better than no water at all, but keep in mind that cold water on hot foliage in the sun is a shock to plants that are already stressed. The water pressure from a sprinkler can damage tender plants and even erode tree bark, while wet foliage often promotes fungus, especially at night.



Blueberry, most of the fruit has already dropped.



Grape, looking good so far.

Whatever method of watering you use, be sure to saturate the soil at least an inch deep, hopefully more without leaving soil soggy or muddy.

*Keep an eye on your well - water tables may be lower than usual in some areas. If you notice your water pressure diminishing, or you see sediment in your water, stop watering and give your well some time to recover.

2. *Mulch*

Retain the water in the soil with 3 or 4 inches of organic mulch that will not only prevent up to 50% of evaporation but will also prevent competing weeds and provide a slower release of nutrients as it breaks down. Remember to leave plenty of room for air circulation around stems and canes.

3. *Do Not Fertilize*

Commercial fertilizers and even some composted organic fertilizers can release nutrients quickly. They may kill your plants outright or encourage the plants to waste energy on new growth that can not be supported in drought conditions.

4. *Good Hygiene*

If you find evidence of disease, remove it - but do not compost the debris. Always remove plant debris and dropped fruit that would encourage pests and disease.

5. *Do Not Prune*

Unless you need to remove diseased parts of plants, do not prune. Heat stressed plants don't need to spend energy healing wounds from pruning. Just try to think of 'ugly' as this year's new 'beautiful.' Even dead leaves and branches provide some shade protection from the sun.

6. *Evening Shade*

Set up some light colored afternoon/evening shade, like a frost cover or an old sheet a few feet away from the plants at a 45° angle to provide some relief. Be sure not to block more than 50% of the light or trap hot air around the plants.

7. *Pest Management: Companion Plants and Trap Plants*

Consider planting garlic, strong herbs, or marigolds nearby to discourage insect pests. Plant nasturtiums a little ways away from your fruiting plants to draw away (trap) aphids where they can be killed without affecting your fruits.

8. *Monitor*

Remember, this is a process. There's no telling how long the drought will last. So stick your fingers in the dirt every day, and water whenever the soil is dry.

Questions? Find us on Facebook or contact us through https://patrickmastergardeners.org/. Don't forget to tune into WHEO and Patrick County Master Gardeners every 4th, Tuesday from 8:30 am to 9 a.m.

MOODY
Funeral Services, Inc.



"We appreciate the confidence you have shown in us for over 60 years."

202 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA
Phone 276-694-3145
www.moodyfuneralservices.com
Terri S. Wood, Manager

Federal disaster assistance available to Virginia growers impacted by ongoing drought conditions, late freeze

With recent rains, Virginia's drought-stricken growers are expressing cautious optimism that this season still can be salvaged, as state agriculture leaders are encouraging farmers affected by adverse spring weather to consider options for federal disaster assistance.

With much of the state under severe-to-extreme drought conditions, farmers in multiple Virginia localities have received drought disaster designations by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and the Farm Service Agency. A range of disaster assistance programs are available to eligible producers, including emergency loans and other recovery options.

Recent rains have been "a blessing," said Carl Daniel, Halifax County Farm Bureau president who grows corn, soybean and tobacco, and raises some beef cattle.

Though many Southside Virginia farmers are waiting later than usual to plant crops, "we think there is still hope," he said. "The rain has been sporadic. Some areas only got an inch-and-a-half while others up to 5 inches. But any rain is good in a drought situation!"

However, grasslands and pastures are "taking a beating," said Virginia Farm Bureau Federation state board member Bruce Slagle, who represents farmers in the region.

"Some farmers are still feeding their hay supplies from last fall, while not making more," he explained. "Normally, you're rolling hay now for next winter. What little hay is out there—they might be feeding it already. But I think the rain is going to help them out a lot."

VFBF Vice President Robert J. Mills Jr. has

(See Federal p. 9)

Patrick Pulpits

Your Greatest Days of Faith Can Be Now

By Pastor Wayne Moore
High Point Baptist Church
2381 Big A School Road, Stuart, VA

A mischievous fellow once asked a woman, "Lady, how old are you?"

She replied, "Sir, my age is my business."

He grinned and said, "Ma'am, it looks like you've been in business a long time."

We laugh because we recognize the truth: age is something everyone notices, but only God defines. And throughout Scripture, God repeatedly uses people long after the world assumes their best years are behind them.

Consider a few examples. Moses was 120 when he died, still strong and clear eyed. Joshua was about 80 when he stepped into national leadership. Caleb, well into his 80s, famously declared, "Give me this mountain." These men had outlived nearly everyone they grew up with. They were more than twenty years older than the generation they were leading. Yet their greatest work for God happened in their later years.

The message is simple: if we're still here, God still has a purpose for us. Age may limit people, but it never limits God.

A modern example shines just as brightly. Jessie Mae (1919–2021) volunteered at Blue Ridge for decades. Well past 100, she pushed "the old people" in their wheelchairs to the Wednesday worship service. I would often see her afterwards at the Coffee Break enjoying a hotdog, a Coke, and fried potatoes. She lived with purpose, joy, and service until the Lord called her home. Her life reminds us that usefulness in God's kingdom is not measured in birthdays.

This same truth stands at the heart of Joshua 1, where God speaks to an aging Joshua after Moses' death. Joshua's world had changed. His mentor was gone. His generation was gone. His responsibilities were heavier than ever. Yet God had not forgotten him. God called him by name, gave him a task, and trusted him with something new. When life changes—through loss, transition, or relocation—God still calls us by name. We are not forgotten. We are not set aside. God remembers our faithfulness and continues to work through us.

Joshua also faced unfamiliar territory: new land, new people, new challenges. But God had already gone ahead of him. The land was promised, the victory secured, and God's presence guaranteed. The same is true for us. Whether we face assisted living, health changes, or new routines, God goes before us. We never walk into anything He has not already prepared. Our future is not uncertain to Him.

God also strengthens His people when they feel weak. He told Joshua, "Be strong and courageous," but He did not tell him to act young. Strength does not come from muscle or memory but from faith—faith in God's Word, God's presence, and God's faithfulness. The God who has carried us this far will not fail us now. We can be strong because He is strong.

Finally, God stays with His people every step of the way. Joshua's greatest comfort was not the land he would enter but the Lord who would go with him. God did not promise an easy road; He promised a faithful companion. For aging believers, that promise is an anchor. When family is far away, when friends have passed, when routines change, when bodies weaken—God remains. He carries us in old age (Isaiah 46:4), and when our journey here ends, we are immediately with Him (2 Corinthians 5:8). We are never alone. God is with us in our rooms, in our chairs, in our quiet moments, in our fears, and in our nights. His presence is our courage.

Scripture is full of reminders that our most fruitful days can come later in life. Joshua and Caleb did their greatest work after 80. Moses did his greatest work after 80. Anna the prophetess served faithfully into her 80s. The apostle John wrote Revelation in his 90s. God is not finished with His people simply because their hair has turned gray.

Your prayers matter. Your faith matters. Your example matters. Your presence matters. And your life still bears fruit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control (Galatians 5:22-23). Psalm 92:14 says the righteous "still bear fruit in old age."

No matter your age, you can "reduce it" by walking in the Spirit. Children are told to act their age, but believers are called to act according to the Spirit—whose strength never fades. As long as we have breath, God still has a purpose for us.

Your greatest days of faith can be now.

BIBLE TRIVIA
BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Darius (KJV) in the *Old or New Testament or neither?*

2. In biblical times, how long did the journey of Ezra ordinarily take from Babylon to Jerusalem? *3 days, 4 months, 2 years, 5 years*

3. From Philippians 4, what does the Apostle Paul instruct us to do rather than worry? *Cry, Pray, Love, Talk*

4. What creature(s) did the prophet Joel have a vision of? *Locusts, Flies, Vipers, Leeches*

5. From John 18, who asked, "What is truth"? *Moses, Paul, Pilate, David*

6. In what catastrophe were all of Job's children killed? *Flood, Fire, Wind, Stampede*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Four months, 3) Pray, 4) Locusts, 5) Pilate, 6) Wind



Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church
1515 Rock Church Rd.
Meadows of Dan, Virginia
Rev. Tommy Gosnell
CHURCH SERVICES
Sunday School 10 am
Worship Services 11 am

Risen Lord Catholic Church
59 Mountain View Loop
Stuart
(actually in Patrick Springs)
276.236.7814
Office Hours (Tue-Thu 8 am -3 pm)
Mass Schedule
Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Reconciliation
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.

Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness
260 Spring Rd., Patrick Springs, VA - 276-694-6357
Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Wednesdays
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm
Food Distribution Ministry:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
To Ignite a Passion to Follow Jesus Christ

Stuart Baptist Church
Bringing the World to Christ
108 W. Blue Ridge St.
276-694-3440
www.stuartbaptist.org
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
office@stuartbaptist.org

Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church
220 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 1078, Stuart, VA 24171
276-694-7677 • www.stuartva.adventistchurch.org
SATURDAY SERVICES:
Sabbath School - 9:20; Worship 11:00 a.m.
Come visit our Bible-believing church

Join the Church Page
Call (276)340-2445 today!

Federal

(cont. from page 8)

mowed some hay this season at Briar View Farms in Pittsylvania County.

"But our first cutting is less than 30% of our usual yield," he said. "The rest dried up."

Parched pasture conditions have backed others into a financial corner.

"We have cattle farmers in Halifax selling young calves, so there's enough pasture for the others to have," Daniel added. "And people are already looking for hay to feed."

But farmers hedge their bets when Mother Nature deals bad hands. Mills said tobacco plantings can be postponed, depending on variety.

"This is the first time in our career that we've ever planted tobacco in June," he said. "If we have more rain and crop progresses throughout the season, we'll be OK. But if we have another drought mid-season, it's going to stall the crop. Delayed maturity puts it in the frost window."

Mills said only about 25% of corn has been planted in the county because of drought, including just 12 acres of their 200-acre cornfield, while late frost pushed some farmers to re-plant their corn and soybean crops altogether.

Growers impacted by the late April freeze may be eligible for FSA physical loss loans to help repair or replace damaged or destroyed physical property. The farmers.gov Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet and Loan Assistance Tool can help determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center or call Virginia FSA at 804-287-1500.

Weekly SUDOKU

	4						3	6
3			9	4				7
	2	7		5	6	4		1
	7				4	2	6	3
6			1					9
	8		6		3	1		
	6				8			4
4				6	7			2
2		5	4	3	9			8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

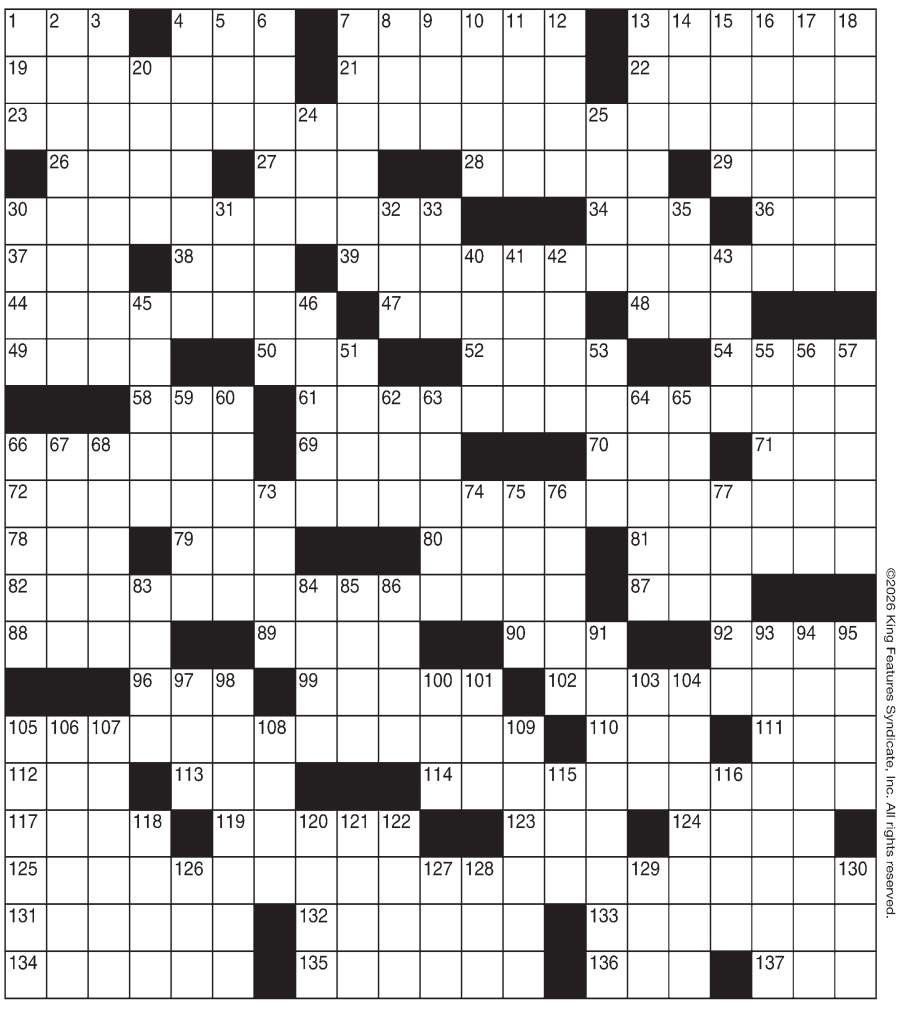
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Super Crossword — "LO AND BEHOLD!"

ACROSS
1 Police dept. alert
4 Celtics, on scoreboards
7 Like messy beds
13 Beard go-with, for short
19 French department head
21 Got ready, with "up"
22 Epithets
23 Refreshing a web page that has detailed contract wording?
26 Half a quart
27 Meadowland
28 Navigate
29 It might make you red in the face
30 Annual bebop music festival in Sri Lanka's capital?
34 Discontinue
36 That girl
37 It might make you red in the face
38 Unbroken
39 Basketball-stuffing pros taking part in a zigzag ski race?
44 "C'mon, do me this favor"
47 Fountain in Rome
48 Spoil
49 Writer Ferber
50 Visualize
52 "—, vidi, vici"
54 Sheriff Taylor's son
58 Dol. units
61 Becoming less energetic at the disco?
66 Barbie's little sister
69 "I won't — word"
70 Male bud
71 D.C.'s land
72 Having a boss who will only communicate with you by singing?
78 Boxer Laila
79 Wanted-poster abbr.
80 "Let — already!"
81 IRS probes
82 Technique of kneading bivalve mollusks before cooking them?
87 Big inits. in fashion
88 Watering aid
89 Rescue
90 Big inits. in fuel additives
92 This, in Lima
96 "Golly!"
99 Dog tether
102 Maligns
105 Girls' shirts worn as part of a classroom dress code?
110 Province west of Sask.
111 "Nope"
112 — kwon do
113 Born as
114 Strauss opera performed correctly in every detail?
117 Europe-Asia border river
119 Tree yielding chocolate
123 Zodiac feline
124 Actress Teri
125 Repainting all your yuletide ornaments black and white?
131 Prairie canine
132 Taken illicitly
133 ID attached to luggage
134 Unfurled, e.g.
135 Trunks
136 That girl
137 Hurly-burly

DOWN
1 Spring mo.
2 Got ready
3 Native of Belmopan
4 Officer patrolling an area
5 Condition with rituals, in brief
6 Ben and Jerry of comedy
7 "Roots" actress Leslie
8 After-tax
9 — -jongg
10 War god
11 Masterful
12 Falco of TV
13 Breastbone
14 Gratuity
15 Razor option
16 Trite phrase
17 "Taxi" actress Marilu
18 Acid-alcohol compounds
20 "Happy Days" cool guy, with "the"
24 Natal lead-in
25 Requirement
30 Agree (with)
31 Yoko of art
32 Deli classic
33 Rowing blade
35 Genetic ID
40 — Strauss
41 Pizza cooker
42 Very valuable vase
43 Ray of McDonald's
45 Vanzetti's old partner in crime
46 Actress Thompson
51 Israeli airline
53 "— happy to!"
55 Second-century pope
56 Map extra
57 "By Jove!"
59 Kind of wave
60 Japanese watch brand
62 Olive of old comics
63 "Which — Up?" (1977 comedy film)
64 Orderly lineup
65 "— ordo seclorum" (phrase on a dollar bill)
66 Break to bits
67 Verizon, e.g., in brief
68 Pseudonym
73 Salary limits
74 Depot: Abbr.
75 Trendy Aussie boots
76 Bards
77 Did nothing
83 Toy brick brand
84 Galleria
85 2004 Chevy debut
86 Football Hall of Famer Junior
91 Military units
93 Mexican miss
94 Mine railway
95 Tennis star Arthur
97 Untold eras
98 Voted in
100 Boise-to-Vegas dir.
101 Witch's spell
103 Gore and Hirt
104 Heat-vs.-Suns matchup, e.g.
105 Wall plaster
106 Drive-in restaurant server
107 Cry from a town crier
108 Sunlight ray
109 Hair parlors
115 Cartoon pic
116 Tardy
118 Jungle cat
120 Put in a role
121 Regarding
122 Stench
126 Holy Mlle.
127 Raised rails
128 Co. bigwig
129 Cheering cry
130 Many an intl. charity



©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Puzzle answers page 11

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON
Call (276) 694-3101

SERVICES

KENDRICK PAVING & TRUCKING, PAVING, Sealing, Line Striping, Gravel Hauling and Mulch. Rodney Kendrick 276-629- 3913 or 276-340-7786. Email at kendrickpaving@gmail.com Carrying on the tradition of quality.

CLAYTON KENDRICK PAVING
(Original Kendrick Paving) Gravel hauling and spreading, grading, mulch, dirt, pavement maintenance and striping. 42 years experience. Reasonable prices. Call (276) 694- 7786 (office) or (276)- 340-8786 (cell) Email: ckendrick@embarqmail.com or claytonk81@gmail.com

WOODWRX
Est. since 1988
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc.
Originally based in Palm Beach County-References
Bob Morehouse
Phone: 276-930-1703
Cell: 561-881-8292
E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net Website: Woodwrx.net

HYDRO AIR SYSTEMS
Heating, Cooling & Electrical Contractors, SALES & SERVICES, Licensed in VA & NC, 276-694-7308

CUSTOM CARPENTRY, fencing, decks, roofing, siding, gutter cleaning and guard installation, tree removal, painting, cleanouts, chimney cleaning and repair. Free local estimates 276-224-4623.

STEVE'S MOWER REPAIR
Service and repair for all makes of lawn mowers. Pick up and delivery for a reasonable charge based on your location. We offer disposal of old mowers with free pick up and sell used mowers and other power equipment. Call 276-694-3748. If no answer, leave your name and number. We'll call you back.

FOR SALE

2 Hoyer Lifts for Sale
One Brand New Hoyer Advance 346 Electric Hydraulic Best Lift. Never been used, paid $2500, asking $2000
One Like New Hoyer Electric Hydraulic Best Lift, Asking $1800
Call 276-229-9373

Foldable Wheelchair, brand new in the box, lightweight with leg and footrest. Asking $160 call 276-229-9373

REACH VIRGINIA Commonwealth Media Solutions AD NETWORK
GROW YOUR BUSINESS
REACH OVER 1 MILLION Virginia Readers Weekly
Advertising Solutions starting at $330
Contact this newspaper today to get started.

AUCTIONS
ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Promote your upcoming auctions statewide! Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audience. Call this paper or Commonwealth Media Solutions 804-521-7570, advertising@commonwealthmediasolutions.com

HOME IMPROVEMENT
No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-877-614-6667 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Safe Step. North Americas #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

SERVICES
DIVORCE-Uncontested, $525.00 + $86.00 court cost. WILLS-$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com

REACH VIRGINIA Commonwealth Media Solutions AD NETWORK
GROW YOUR BUSINESS
REACH OVER 1 MILLION Virginia Readers Weekly
Advertising Solutions starting at $330
Contact this newspaper today to get started.

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-855-262-5564

email us
DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

HUGE SELECTION OF LIFT CHAIRS
Small, Medium and Large size chairs available
Starting at $795
RIVERSIDE FURNITURE
1580 GREENSBORO ROAD | MARTINSVILLE, VA
276.632.1286
Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm • Saturday 9 am - 2 pm

DON'T FALL BEHIND ON YOUR READING
JOIN OUR FREE DIGITAL NEWSLETTER INSTEAD
GO TO theenterprise.net
CLICK NOW TO JOIN
STAY UP TO DATE ON LOCAL NEWS

GENERAC
#1 standby generator worldwide.
Get whole-home power, automatically.
Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote today!
*Terms & conditions apply

SunSetter America's #1 Awning
SAVE $350 when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.
Call 1-844-746-2332 now to SAVE $350 TODAY!
- Instant shade at the touch of a button.
- Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.
- Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.

Transform Your Bathroom and Change Your Life.
FREE TOILET + $1,500 OFF*
For your FREE information kit and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free 1-877-591-9950
safestep
*Free toilet with purchase and installation of a walk-in tub or walk-in shower only. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Market restrictions may apply. Offer available in select markets only. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13VH11096000

Four Rivers Realty (276)694-5044
Kelsey Fain REALTOR
Call me today!
KFain@fourriversva.com (276)693-3620
21521 Jeb Stuart Hwy PO Box 823 Stuart, VA 24171

Wilderness - Stuart, Inc.
Buying Logs
Standing Timber or Timberland
Stuart, VA
Contact Ronnie Bolt at
(276) 694-4432

SPRINGLAKE STOCKYARD
LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.
• We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
• State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday
For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website: www.springlakeauctions.com.
Please feel free to call us at
(540) 297-1707.
We appreciate your business!
1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

Jamie's Recycling Center
BUYING: CANS, COPPER, BATTERIES, ALUMINUM, AUTOMOBILES, CONVERTERS, WHEELS, STAINLESS STEEL, ELECTRONICS (NO TVS), AND MORE.
CALL 276-694-5692 FOR PRICES
We offer Roll Off Services
Home Clean Out or Construction?
Call 276-694-5692 for Pricing & Details
Jamie's Recycling Center
3609 S Mayo Dr. | Stuart, VA 24171
276-694-5692
HOURS: M-F | 8A - 4:45P | LUNCH: 11:45A - 1P
"With God All Things Are Possible." Matthew 19:26

Firewater SERVICE CENTER
1329 Scenic Drive, Stuart, VA 24171
(276) 694-7417 or (276) 358-1580
Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 to 5:30, Sat 8:00 to 2:00
VALVOLINE AND SCHAEFFER OIL PRODUCTS
Now Offering
TIRES & FRONT END ALIGNMENT
- State Inspections
- Oil Changes using Amsoil, Valvoline & Schaeffer Oil Products
- Full Brake Service for Disc and Drum Brakes
- Replacement of Belts and Hoses
- Tune Ups
- Tire Rotations
- Starter and Alternator Replacement
- Battery Replacement
10% DISCOUNT FOR VETERANS

ADVERTISE WITH US

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Meeting/event information must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday before the desired publication date. Email to dhall@theenterprise.net.)

Meetings

Wednesday, June 17

The Stuart Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. in the town office.

Thursday, June 18

The Patrick County Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) will meet at 6 p.m. at the Tourism Office.

Events

Friday, June 19

The Stuart DMV Select Office will be closed for the Juneteenth holiday.

The Community Food Truck will be at the Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

Ross-Harbour Methodist Church, 6260 Elamsville Road, will hold a free community meal from 4 to 6 p.m.

Stuart Farmers' Market is open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., with a selection of vegetables, fresh eggs, broccoli, honey, cabbage, knitted items, homemade soaps, jewelry, coffee, plants and much more. The Rise and Shine Youth Market will be on site with all sorts of great items handmade by our local youth.

The Reynolds Homestead will host a Juneteenth Freedom Celebration from 12 to 5 p.m. Participants can tour the historic home and kitchen, visit the tobacco barn, cemetery for the enslaved community, rock spring and the community engagement center where they will have an opportunity to review research about the men, women, and children who were enslaved on the plantation and create a cornhusk doll, a popular toy for enslaved children. Other activities including a series of cakewalks will be held on the grounds. For additional information, visit https://reynoldshomestead.vt.edu/upcoming-events/Juneteenth.html.

Saturday, June 20

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC will host a benefit for Sally and James Smith from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Hooker Building in Stuart, with entertainment by Southern Prophets and barbecue plates. The plates cost $20 each and include barbecue, side dishes and dessert. All proceeds got to care of the Smiths.

Tuesday, June 23

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in conjunction with design-build contractor Triton Construction, Inc. will hold a "Pardon Our Dust" public information meeting for upcoming roadwork for the Vesta Project on U.S. 58 in Patrick County, 4 to 6 p.m., Meadows of Dan Elementary School Gymnasium, 3003 Jeb Stuart Highway in Meadows of Dan. Parking will be available in the upper playground parking lot.

The Stuart Evening Farmers' Market opens from 5 to 8 p.m., with fresh produce and hand crafted items.

The Stuart DMV Select Office will be closed for year-end inventory.

Thursday, June 25 - Saturday, June 27

High Point Baptist Church, 2381 Big A School Road, Stuart, will hold Vacation Bible School from 6-8:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 6-7 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Pastor Wayne Moore at 336-793-7991.

Saturday, June 27

A free community picnic and bluegrass jam will be held at Dominion Valley Park, with barbecue and all the fixings served from 4-7 p.m. The event is being sponsored in part by the Dan River District Ruritans and friends of the Moorefield Store area.

Monday, June 29

The Patrick County VA250 celebration will be held at the William Letcher Gravesite, an American Patriot of the Revolutionary War at 221 Letcher Lane at 6 p.m. Revolutionary War Reenactors will be present, a cannon will be fired, and Tom Perry will speak about Letcher.

Saturday, July 4

Bluegrass and old time music competition at the Vesta Community Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Competition categories include banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bands, vocals, and flat footing with three competition levels of children, teen, and adult. People should bring their own lawn chairs. Concessions will be available for sale.

The Stuart DMV Select Office will be closed in observance of the Independence holiday.

Saturday, July 11

The United Daughters of the Confederacy will hold a special program form the 130th anniversary celebration of Mildred Lee Chapter 74, Virginia Division at the Martinsville-Henry County Heritage Museum, 1 East Main St., Martinsville, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Ongoing

The Patrick County High School Hall of Fame Committee is accepting nominations for induction into the Hall of Fame Class of 2026 until July 31. Nominations can be made by going to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/147g76X_3A_FezM1OXKGz0BqHem1wiWnL_lV2iIxhah0/edit.

American Legion Post 105 meets every third Friday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Post building at 553 American Legion Road, Stuart. All are welcome.

VFW Post 7800 meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Premeeting meal starts at 6 p.m.; meeting starts at 7 p.m., 939 VFW Road, Patrick Springs. Qualified new members welcome.

Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets on the first Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 105, at 7 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

Inside yard sale to benefit Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC. 109 Buena Vista, Stuart, Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members meet on the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Alzheimer's office. New members are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

The Coffee Break Café hosts live music on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Bring an instrument, or just come and listen.

Community meal at Salem Church on Salem Church Road in Critz, the first Sunday of every month at 12:10 p.m. Call (276) 222-1069 with questions.

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the community room at Patrick Springs Park, 2 Ballpark Road, Patrick Springs.

Vesta Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at the Vesta Community Center on the third Tuesday of each month at noon. Both groups welcome new members and invite caregivers to attend. Literature is also available.

Ararat Ruritan Club holds Rook games every Monday night from 6:30-8 p.m.

Free Community Meal, on the 4th Wednesday, 5 p.m., Raven Rock Wesleyan Church, 1912 Raven Rock Road, Ararat. Take out or dine in. Call Scott or Nann Phillips at (276) 773-6004 or email pastor@ravenrockchurch.org.

The Carroll County Genealogy Club is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for food, with music and dancing, 6:30-9 p.m.; Golden Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for food, music, and dancing from 6:30-9 p.m.

Super Crossword

Answers

A	P	B	■	B	O	S	■	U	N	M	A	D	E	■	S	T	A	C	H	E
P	R	E	F	E	C	T	■	G	E	A	R	E	D	■	T	I	T	L	E	S
R	E	L	O	A	D	I	N	G	T	H	E	F	I	N	E	P	R	I	N	T
■	P	I	N	T	■	L	E	A	■	■	S	T	E	E	R	■	A	C	N	E
J	A	Z	Z	C	O	L	O	M	B	O	■	■	■	E	N	D	■	H	E	R
I	R	E	■	O	N	E	■	S	L	A	L	O	M	D	U	N	K	E	R	S
B	E	A	S	P	O	R	T	■	T	R	E	V	I	■	M	A	R	■	■	■
E	D	N	A	■	■	S	E	E	■	■	V	E	N	I	■	■	O	P	I	E
■	■	■	C	T	S	■	S	L	O	W	I	N	G	D	A	N	C	I	N	G
S	T	A	C	I	E	■	S	A	Y	A	■	■	■	B	R	O	■	U	S	A
M	E	L	O	D	I	C	A	L	L	Y	S	U	P	E	R	V	I	S	E	D
A	L	I	■	A	K	A	■	■	■	■	I	T	G	O	■	A	U	D	I	T	S
S	C	A	L	L	O	P	M	A	S	S	A	G	E	■	Y	S	L	■	■	■
H	O	S	E	■	■	S	A	V	E	■	■	S	T	P	■	■	E	S	T	A
■	■	■	G	E	E	■	L	E	A	S	H	■	S	L	A	N	D	E	R	S
S	C	H	O	O	L	B	L	O	U	S	E	S	■	A	L	B	■	N	A	H
T	A	E	■	N	E	E	■	■	■	E	X	A	C	T	S	A	L	O	M	E
U	R	A	L	■	C	A	C	A	O	■	■	L	E	O	■	G	A	R	R	■
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	D	E	C	O	L	O	R	A	T	I	O	N
C	O	Y	O	T	E	■	S	T	O	L	E	N	■	N	A	M	E	T	A	G
O	P	E	N	E	D	■	T	O	R	S	O	S	■	S	H	E	■	A	D	O

1	4	9	7	8	2	5	3	6
3	5	6	9	4	1	8	2	7
8	2	7	3	5	6	4	9	1
5	7	1	8	9	4	2	6	3
6	3	4	1	2	5	7	8	9
9	8	2	6	7	3	1	4	5
7	6	3	2	1	8	9	5	4
4	9	8	5	6	7	3	1	2
2	1	5	4	3	9	6	7	8

HUGE ESTATE TAG SALE!!

FRIDAY – JUNE 19 – 12:00 NOON – 4:00PM
SATURDAY – JUNE 20 – 8:00AM – 1:00PM
SUNDAY – JUNE 21 – 12:00 NOON – 4:00PM

This house is FULL!!

4120 MT. OLIVET ROAD, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Gold & Silver Jewelry, Antique Blue Decorated Crock, Lots of Western Memorabilia, Many Franklin Mint Western Collectibles, NICE Gun reference books, Vintage Collectible Ammunition, Early U.S. Military Horse Breast Straps, Western Style Gun & Ammo Belts & Holsters, Whips, Western Decorations, Franklin Mint "Colt" & "Winchester" Pocket watches & Display Stands, Western Belts & Buckles, Indian Artifacts, Gun Boxes & Cases, Wall Decorations, John Wayne Wall Clock, Metal Advertising Signs (Colt, Winchester, Wild West etc.), Winchester Wood Advertising Boxes, Antique Saddle Bags, Horse Shoes, Franklin Mint Indian Figurines, Colt & Winchester Collectibles, Craftsman Hand Tools, Drills, Saws, Shop Light NIB, PlayStation 2 & Games, Walnut Dining Room Table & 6 Chairs, Nice Sofa, Recliner & Chairs, Bar Stools, Corner Cabinet, Coffee Table & End Tables, Howard Miller Wall Clock, Rocker, Filing Cabinet, Bedroom Furniture, Jewelry Box, LOTS of Jewelry, Baskets, Glassware, Pots & Pans, Nice Clothes & Shoes, Vintage Electronics, Bell & Howell Movie Projector, 8 Track Recording Deck, DVD Players, Christmas Decorations, Metal Cabinet, Stereo, Toys, 65 pc. Staffordshire China "Bouquet" Pattern, Tupperware, Tater Bin, Corning ware, Silverware, Flower Planters, Microwave, Wrought Iron Outdoor Table, Cameras, Figurines, Magnavox Television, Phillips Television, Oil Lamps, Coat Rack, Quilt Rack, Magazine Rack, Wall Pictures, Clothes Hampers, Outdoor Decorations, Wicker Chair, Wicker Shelf, Wicker Table, Linens, Outdoor Patio Table & Chairs, Large Decorative Vases & Planters, Lamps, Dolls, Records, CD's & 8 Tracks, Light Fixtures NIB, Leather Supplies, Vacuum Cleaners, Rugs

TO MANY ITEMS TO LIST!!!

For pictures & listing visit: Estatesales.net & www.auctionzip.com

DIRECTIONS - From Martinsville, Take Church Street, pass the Patrick Henry Mall, turn left beside Hardees onto Chatham Heights Road, Pass Hooker Ballfield on the left, go approximately 2 miles, turn right on Mt. Olivet Road across from the Church of Christ, 6th house on left. WATCH FOR SIGNS

WILLIAMS AUCTION CO., LLC & ESTATE TAG SALES
276-358-1463 276-340-6441 VAAL #3729

Max Kendall Lumber & Tin

Price Reduced
Metal Roofing
Now Made In
Axton, Va.
276-650-2825
Free call 1-888-434-2825
Lynchburg, Va.
434-821-3251
Free Call 1-833-593-3251
Reidsville, NC
336-348-1600
Free call 1-833-205-1600

20 COLORS
Classic Rib – PBR Panel
Standing Seam – 5V

Buy Direct and Save!

American Made
Top Quality
Low Prices
Made Same Day
40 Year Warranty

WE FINANCE METAL ROOFS ON YOUR HOME

Snow Guards
Lumber
Rough - Dressed - Treated
PACKAGE BUILDINGS
Contractors Welcome
maxkendalllumber.com
8261 Mountain Valley Rd

WHEO



92.7 FM
Classic Hits

wheoradio.com

"Small Town Station with a BIG Town Sound"

Friends of Fairystone adopt a park trail, honor volunteer milestones





Volunteers with the Friends of Fairy Stone State Park installed their new Adopt a Trail sign this week, officially marking their commitment to the Oak Hickory Trail. By adopting the trail, the group has pledged to perform monthly maintenance to help keep the route safe, clean, and enjoyable for park visitors. Their ongoing stewardship supports both trail health and the overall visitor experience at Fairy Stone State Park.

Volunteers with the Friends of Fairy Stone State Park were also recognized for their outstanding service to the park community. Each received a certificate for contributing more than 50 hours of volunteer time.

From left to right: Madeliene S., Marcia B., Olivia B., Rita B., Annabelle S., Brian O., Katie O., and Norma B.

Volunteer Norma B. was honored for surpassing 250 hours of service, while Annabelle S. was celebrated for contributing well over 500 hours to the park and its programs. Their dedication and the dedication of all Friends' volunteers helps keep Fairy Stone thriving.

If you're interested in the benefits of volunteering at Fairy Stone State Park, please contact the park office at 276 930 2424 or email Jessica.Seaver@dcr.virginia.gov."

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2026 RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS) PLAN UNDER § 56-585.5 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA AND RELATED REQUESTS
CASE NO. PUR-2026-00065

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 1193 (HB 1526) and 1194 (SB 851) of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly. These duplicate Acts of Assembly, known as the Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA"), became effective on July 1, 2020. The VCEA, *inter alia*, establishes a mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard ("RPS") for Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") in § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"). Subdivision D 4 of Code § 56-585.5 requires APCo to submit annually to the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") plans and petitions for approval of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity ("RPS Filing"). The RPS Filing must also include the Company's plan to meet the energy storage project targets of Code § 56-585.5 E. The Commission must determine whether the RPS Filing is reasonable and prudent, giving due consideration to the following factors: (i) the RPS and carbon dioxide reduction requirements in Code § 56-585.5; (ii) the promotion of new renewable generation and energy storage resources within the Commonwealth, and associated economic development; and (iii) fuel savings projected to be achieved by the plan. The Commission's final order regarding any RPS Filing is required by Code § 56-585.5 D 4 to be entered by the Commission not more than six months after the date of such filing.

On May 15, 2026, APCo completed the filing of its annual RPS Filing to the Commission ("2026 RPS Filing" or "Petition"). In its 2026 RPS Filing, APCo requests that the Commission:

- Approve the Company's annual plan for the development of new solar, wind, and energy storage resources pursuant to Code § 56-585.5 D 4 ("2026 RPS Plan");
- Approve a revenue requirement of $115,326,484 for the rate year of March 2027 through February 2028 ("Rate Year") to be recovered through the mechanisms and methodology previously approved by the Commission in the RPS Cost Allocation Order, as modified in Case No. PUR-2024-00020;
- Determine that two power purchase agreements ("PPAs") with existing wind generation facilities ("Proposed PPAs") are prudent and can be added to the Company's RPS compliance portfolio;
- Approve future cost recovery related to the acquisition by APCo, pursuant to Purchase and Sale Agreements ("PSAs"), of two solar facilities, the Skycrest Solar Project ("Skycrest"), and the Riverstart V Solar Project ("Riverstart") (together, the "Solar Projects"), which are not located in Virginia; and
- Grant waivers of certain of the Commission's Rules Governing Utility Rate Applications and Annual Informational Filings of Investor-Owned Electric Utilities, 20 VAC 5-204-5 *et seq.* (the "Rate Case Rules").

The Company asserts that to meet the requirements of the VCEA, its 2026 RPS Plan includes multiple scenarios to help inform future requests for proposals for renewable and storage resources, and that all scenarios meet the RPS goals (Subsection C), Virginia-domiciled renewable generator requirements (Subsection D), and the energy storage requirements (Subsection E). APCo represents that the 2026 RPS Plan continues to support a balanced and diverse portfolio of resources consisting of solar, wind, small modular reactors ("SMRs"), natural gas, and market renewable energy certificate ("REC") purchases.

APCo states that in developing the 2026 RPS Plan, the Company evaluated multiple VCEA-compliant scenarios and sensitivities using a modeling framework that is materially consistent with its Integrated Resource Planning process. The Company further avers that each of the portfolios modeled for this RPS analysis were constructed to simultaneously satisfy applicable PJM capacity obligations, annual VCEA renewable energy targets, VCEA-mandated energy storage requirements, and modeled environmental compliance requirements. Per the Company's Petition, each of the modeled portfolios resulted in the selection of a diverse portfolio of resources, including both Company-owned and PPA supply-side resources, and demand-side resources, as well as market REC purchases. According to APCo, its action plan under the 2026 RPS Plan is to:

- Issue requests for proposals for a range of VCEA-eligible resources, including onshore wind, solar energy storage, co-located resources, RECs, and energy efficiency;
- Pursue lowest-cost compliance options;
- Procure market-based RECs when such purchases represent an economic compliance alternative;
- Evaluate early-stage site development and permitting opportunities for SMR resources, consistent with long-term decarbonization and reliability objectives;
- Monitor and plan for potential new load growth associated with economic development activities and customer discussions, including large commercial and industrial load prospects, as part of the Company's broader assessment of future capacity requirements, system reliability, and VCEA compliance needs; and
- Monitor the availability and development of new dispatchable resource options, including natural gas-fired combined cycle generation, as part of the Company's broader assessment of future capacity, reliability, and compliance needs.

Solar Projects proposed to be Owned by APCo

APCo proposes to purchase two solar facilities outside of Virginia—Skycrest and Riverstart. According to the Company, both Solar Projects would be physically located within the PJM region, and therefore, would qualify as "RPS eligible" resources pursuant to Code § 56-585.5 C.

The Skycrest Solar project is being developed as a 155 MW facility located in Jay County, Indiana, and the Riverstart Solar project is being developed as a 100 MW facility located in Randolph County, Indiana.

APCo seeks approval to recover future costs associated with the purchase of the Solar Projects. The Company asserts that since neither project will be in commercial operation during the Rate Year, the Company is not requesting recovery of specific costs in this proceeding. APCo requests that the Commission authorize the Company to implement "zero rates" for the Solar Projects, to be kept in place until they enter commercial operation and the Company can close on the PSA transactions.

Proposed PPAs

The Company proposes two wind PPAs as part of its 2026 RPS Plan for which it seeks a prudency determination. APCo currently has a PPA with the Beech Ridge wind farm and seeks approval to extend the PPA by 8 years, starting September 1, 2030. APCo also has an existing PPA with the Camp Grove wind farm that expires January 31, 2028. APCo seeks approval to enter into a new PPA, starting January 1, 2027, to contract for the full energy output and associated RECs from the 150 MW facility. The proposed Camp Grove PPA pricing reflects 75 MW of capacity value through January of 2028, no capacity value from February 2028 through May 2029, and the full 150 MW of capacity value beginning June 2029, as the developer has already committed the facility's capacity to the PJM Capacity Market for the period of February 2028 through May 2029.

Recovery of Abandonment Costs

APCo seeks recovery, over a one-year period, of abandonment costs totaling approximately $4.3 million associated with the Glade-Whitetop Energy Storage Project, the Livingston Wind Project, and the Wythe Energy Storage Project.

Revenue Requirement and Bill Impact

APCo seeks approval to recover a Rate Year revenue requirement, through the RPS rate adjustment clauses ("RACs"), of $115,326,484. The Company represents that this revenue requirement consists of: (1) the under-recovery of costs through January 2026 in the amount of $17,717,392; (2) the revenue requirement of $31,976,391 for the period February 2026 through February 2027 ("Bridge Period"); and (3) the 2027 VCEA Rate Year revenue requirement of $65,632,701.

APCo asserts that the cost allocation methodologies and mechanisms used in this Petition are those approved by the Commission in the RPS Cost Allocation Order, which are as follows:

- A.5 RPS RAC to recover $64,736,643, which includes A.5 RPS RAC surcharge revenues; costs to procure RECs to meet the RPS mandates, including a one-year REC-only contract with a solar facility; and the Rider Wind, Water, Sunlight (Rider WWS) premium for the Bridge Period;
- A.5 RPS-PCAP RAC to recover $10,376,888, which includes the capacity-related costs of the Company's PPAs; and
- A.6 RPS RAC to recover $40,212,954 which includes costs associated with the owned solar and wind facilities (Amherst, Top Hat, and Grover Hill), and abandonment costs associated with VCEA-related projects.

APCo represents that the monthly bill impact of the 2026 RPS Filing on a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month would be an increase of $3.99.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Petition and supporting documents for additional details.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Petition and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's Petition and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's 2026 RPS Filing. On August 5, 2026, at 10 a.m., a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold the telephonic portion of the hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before July 30, 2026, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide required contact information to the Commission. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting; or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting.

On August 5, 2026, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Company's 2026 RPS Filing from the Company, any respondents, and the Staff of the Commission ("Staff").

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings unless they contain confidential information and requires electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company's 2026 RPS Filing may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or njcoates@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

On or before July 10, 2026, any interested person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding must do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such person or entity and their counsel. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation electronically on counsel to the Company, Staff, and all other respondents. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 et seq. ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any notice of participation filed by a person not represented by counsel shall also set forth why the filer's positions in this matter are not adequately represented by another party to this proceeding and cannot be expressed through written or oral public comments as provided for in this proceeding. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00065.

On or before July 10, 2026, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be sent electronically to Staff, the Company, and all other respondents. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00065.

On or before July 30, 2026, any interested person or entity may submit comments on the 2026 RPS Filing by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00065.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The Company's 2026 RPS Filing, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

Thank you for reading The Enterprise

J. E. B. Stuart in 1859







By Tom Perry

The Post Returns reported on January 1859 that James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart was sick at Fort Riley in Kansas Territory. His Company G left Fort Riley on 3-Jan-1859 for Fort Scott, two hundred miles away on the Missouri border. After traveling 120 miles, they were recalled to Fort Riley on 16-Jan-1859.

The next two months saw 1st Lt Stuart in the 1st U.S. Cav Co G at Fort Riley, including a stint as Assistant Adjutant General. Stuart was granted a furlough on April 7, 1859, with permission to apply for two extensions, totaling a Leave of Absence of six months.

It was July 1859 before Stuart left. The month before leaving Kansas, Stuart wrote a letter to his West Point Bible Study partner, Oliver Otis Howard, which is in his collection at Bowdoin College in Maine. "I was gratified to learn that you were accomplishing so much good in a Christian sphere at West Point. I wish you from my heart God's Speed. I devotedly trust that we both may in our day and generation be instruments of good."

Stuart left on 15-July-1859. He would first headed to Saint Louis, where he was confirmed in the Episcopal Church of his mother, Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart, by Bishop Hawkes. He had joined the Methodist Church while a student at Emory and Henry College in southwest Virginia. He attended an Episcopal Convention in Richmond. Stuart assisted in the founding of a church in Junction City, near Fort Riley, which today bears a plaque at the entrance commemorating Stuart's involvement.

Stuart visited Emory and Henry and spoke to the Hermesians, a debating society at the small Methodist college. He told the story that the last time he had been there, he had fallen off the stage trying to impress a young lady.

I believe this was the last time Stuart visited his birthplace, Laurel Hill, in Patrick County, Virginia, as his mother sold the property that year to her doctor, Joseph Hollingsworth, and to businessman Robert Galloway, who built the opera house that still sits on Main Street in Mount Airy, North Carolina.

In October 1859, Stuart would encounter an old nemesis, John Brown, at Harper's Ferry, which will be covered by another story in this series. By Christmas, Stuart and his family were back at Fort Riley, where Flora Stuart was pregnant, and they returned on November 25.

On December 17, 1859, Stuart was commanding a detachment of 20 recruits for the 1st Cavalry. Stuart wrote to George W Cullum,

(See J.E.B. p. 14)







THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

J.E.B

(cont. from page 13)





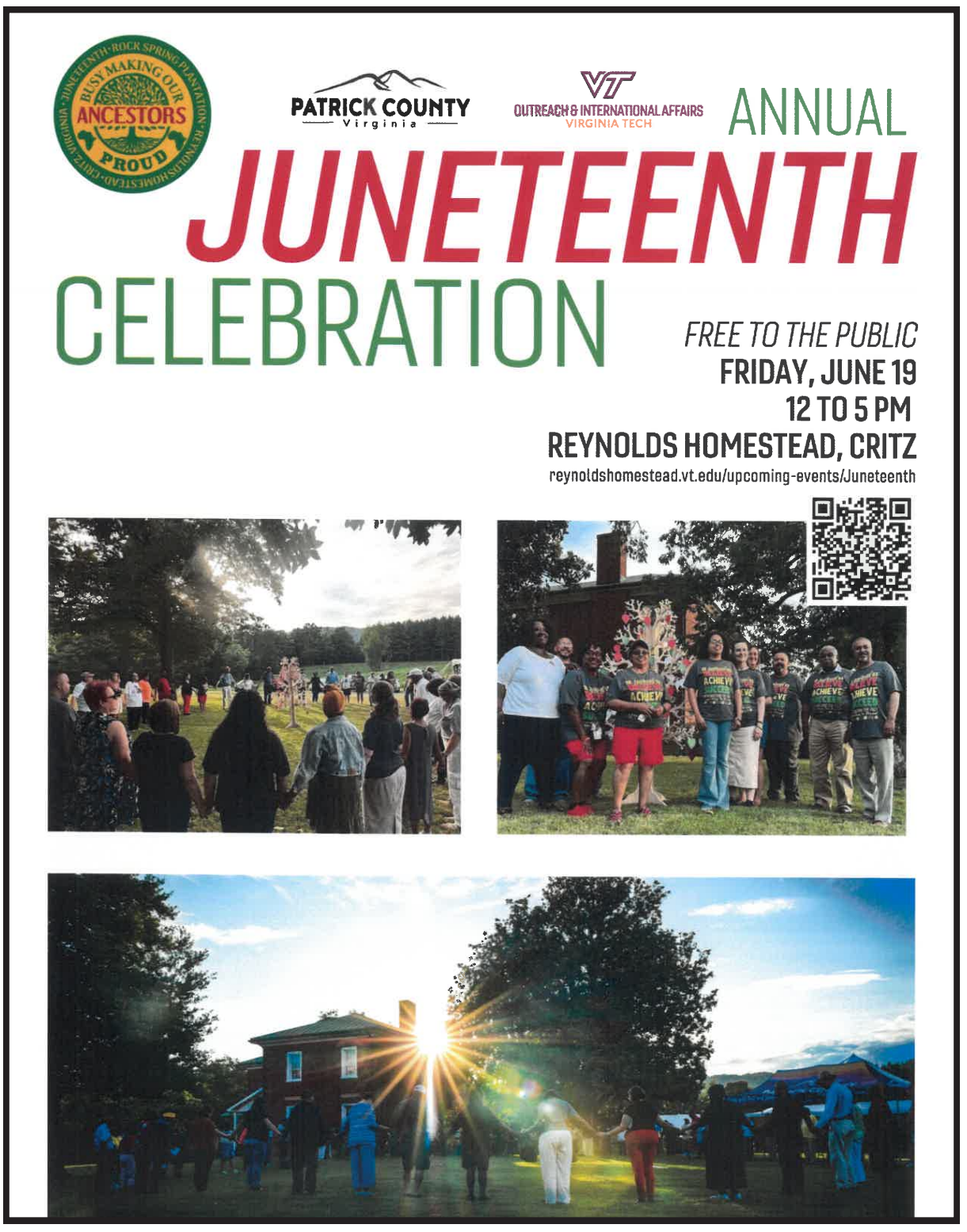
who was working on a Register of Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point in December 1859. Here are some of his own words about his military career up to that time.

"At the age of 15, I volunteered for the Mexican War, but was not accepted on account of my youth. In 1850, I entered West Point. In 1854, I graduated, and in the fall of the same year, being attached as a Brevet 2nd Lieutenant to the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen, I was ordered to join my company in Western Texas. Before I reached my company (October 31) I was promoted to a 2nd Lieutenancy in Company "G" same regiment and joined it in the winter February 3 of 1855, on an expedition against the Muscalero Apaches, commanded by Major Simonson, F. M. R. about 100 miles north of Fort Davis, having marched on horseback from Corpus Christi, Texas to that point between the December 28 '54, and February 3, '55. I remained on that cold winter's campaign in the field and almost constantly in the saddle until May 8 of that year, when I received my transfer as 2nd Lieutenant to one of the new regiments (1st Cavalry), for which I started immediately traversing on horseback the distance from Fort Davis to Indianola, Texas. I joined my Company "H" at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, in June and was immediately assigned to the command of it and to the duty of Acting Adjutant. A few days after I was assigned to the command of "C" Company, I continued performing this threefold duty till June 17, when the regiment was ordered to Fort Leavenworth, to which point I conducted the two companies I commanded by steamer, arriving there June 23, '55. July 5, I was appointed Reg[imental] Q[uarter]m[aster] in addition to the command of two companies, and was also assigned to the duties of Assistant Adjutant of Commissary of Subsistance. In August (7) and September (10), I was relieved by the proper officers of the command of the companies. I accompanied seven companies of Cavalry under Colonel Sumner on the Sioux Expedition (September 19) as Ch. Quartermaster of the command, returning to Leavenworth with that command November 4, 1855—promoted to 1st Lieutenant 1st Cavalry December 20, 1855. The foregoing is, I know, very egotistical, and I may have dwelt on unimportant heads, but it is true, and you may extract such as answers the purposes of my history."

Today, the U.S. Cavalry Museum is located at Fort Riley, and Fort Scott is a National Park.

email us

DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET



Join Us - June 18, 2026



Everyone Welcome